

士 郎 正 宗

PROMETHEUS UNBOUND

# APPLESEED™

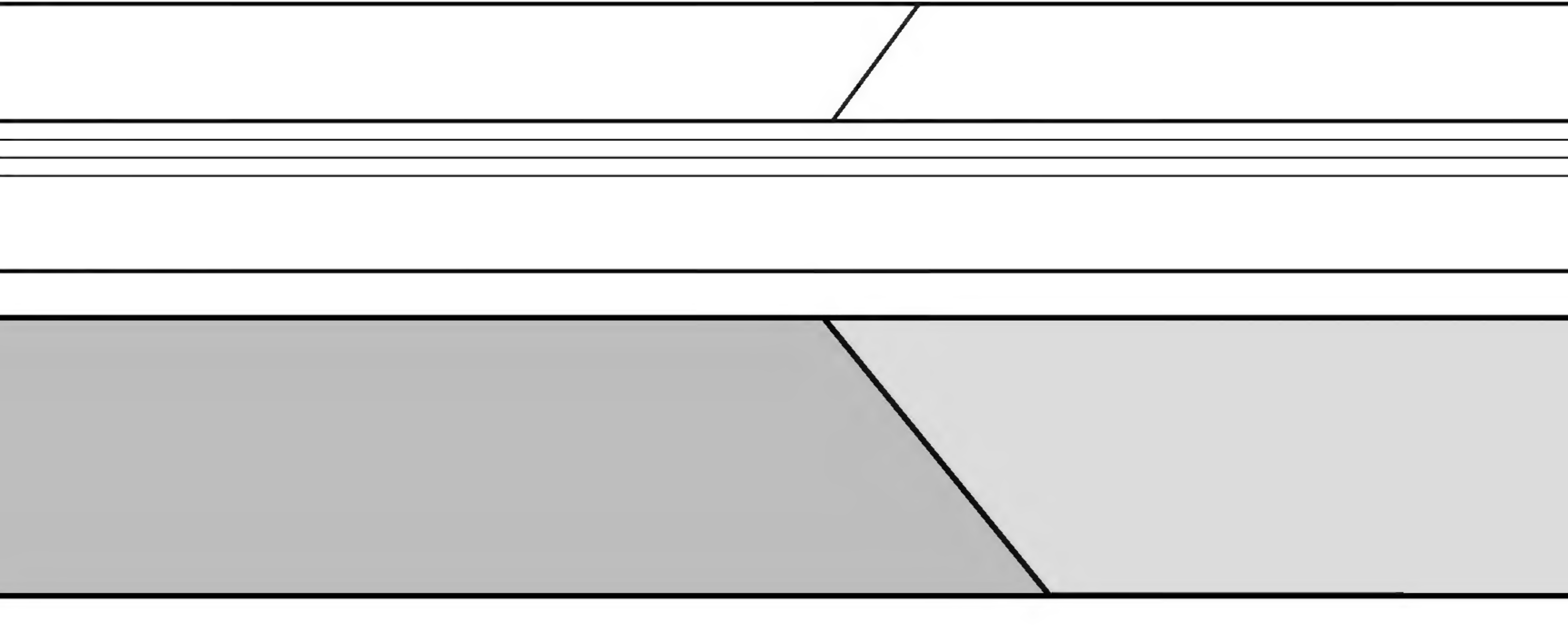
S H I R O W M A S A M U N E







**APPLESEED™**



**publisher MIKE RICHARDSON**

**collection editor TIM ERVIN**

**assistant editor SAMANTHA ROBERTSON**

**series executive editor TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS**

**designer TINA ALESSI**

**art director LIA RIBACCHI**

**APPLESEED™ BOOK TWO: PROMETHEUS UNBOUND**

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士郎正宗 PROMETHEUS UNBOUND  
**APPLESEED**™

story and art by **S H I R O W M A S A M U N E**

translation by **DANA LEWIS + TOREN SMITH**  
[ with **DUANE JOHNSON** ]

lettering by **TOM ORZECOWSKI**





008



[8] ALIEN

047



[9] DOMINATE THE MIND

060



[10] HIDE & SEEK

108



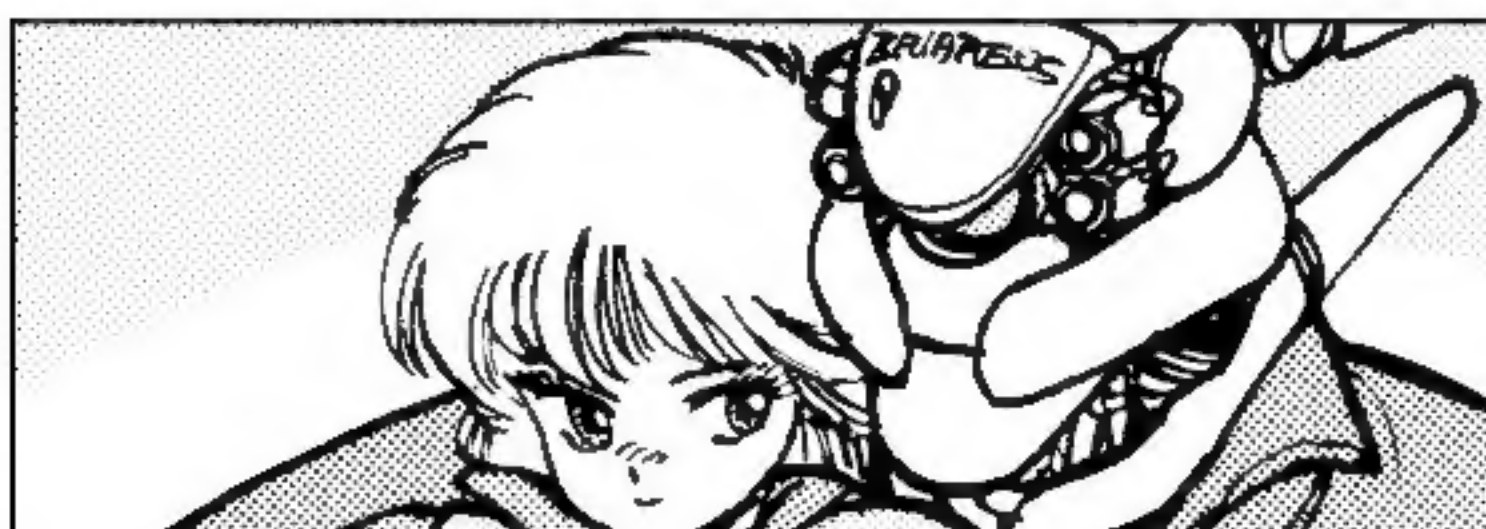
[11] ZERO HOUR

119



[12] BATTLE OF TUPHON

165



[13] APPLE SEED

180



[14] CYBERNETICS

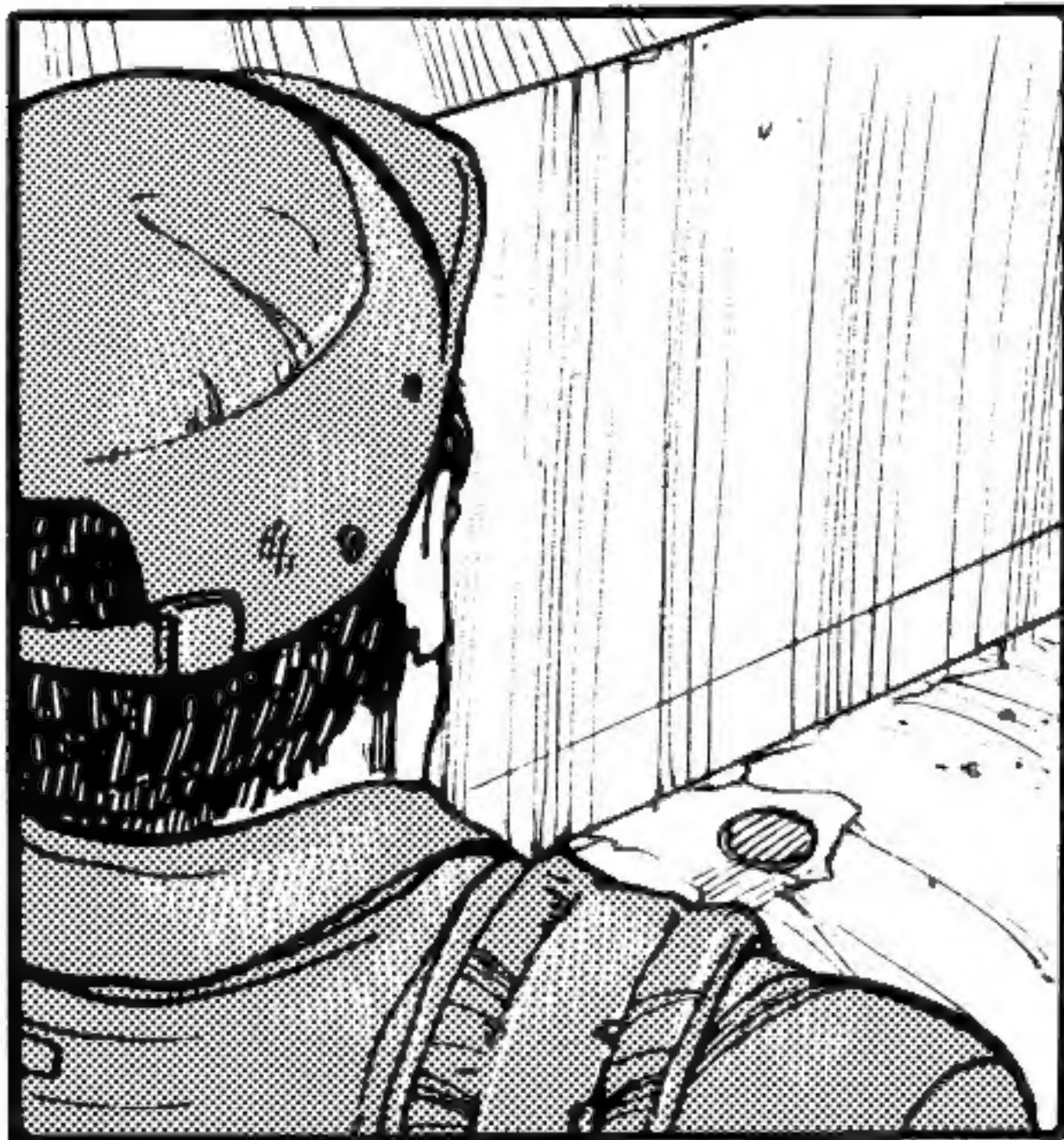
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士郎正宗

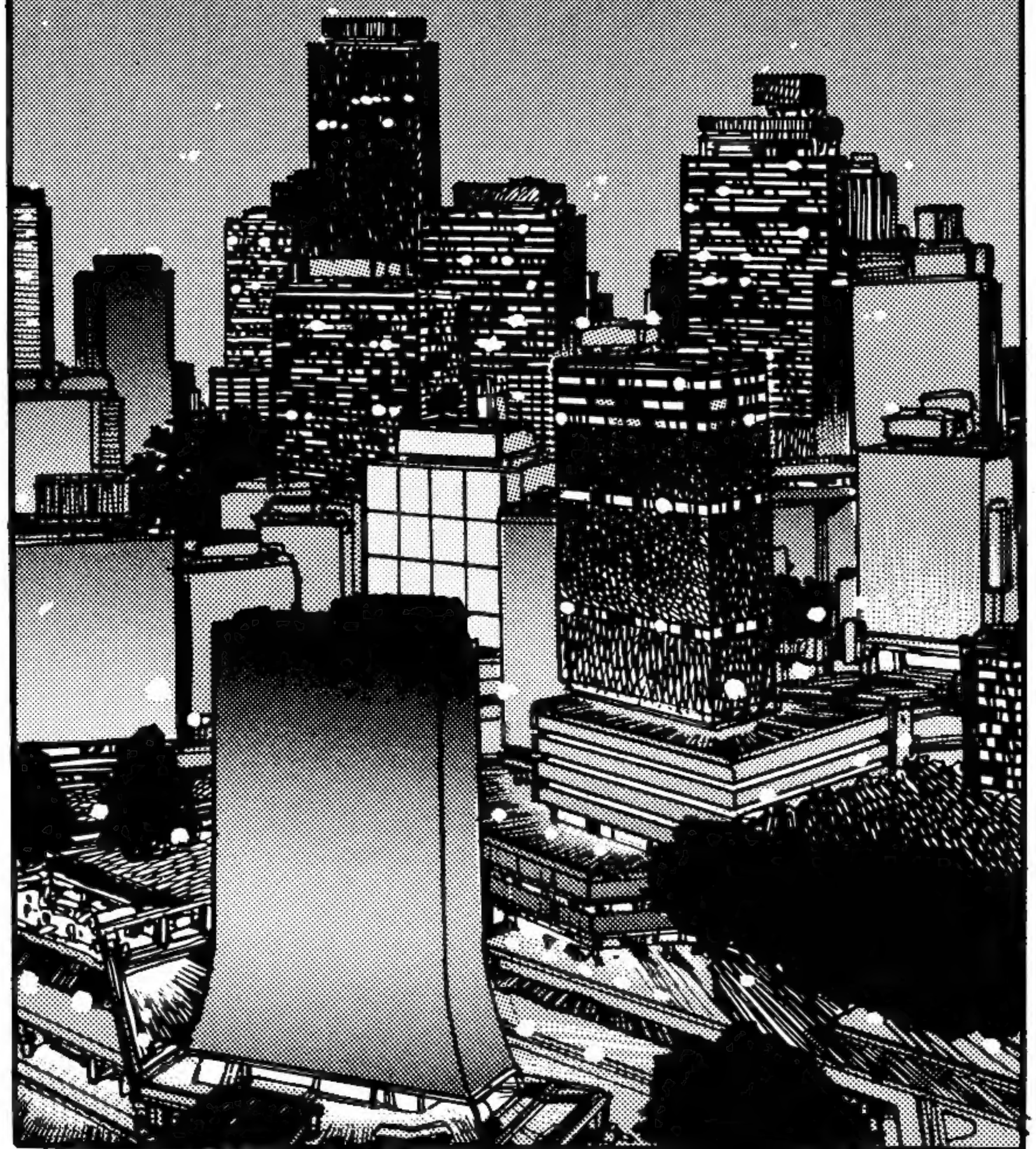
SHIROW MASAMUNE



THE TIME IS EARLY IN THE  
TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY.  
THE EARTH HAS BEEN  
UNIFIED UNDER **AEGIS**, A  
CENTRAL MANAGEMENT  
BUREAU RUN EXCLUSIVELY  
BY **BIOROIDS** (ENHANCED  
ARTIFICIAL HUMANS).

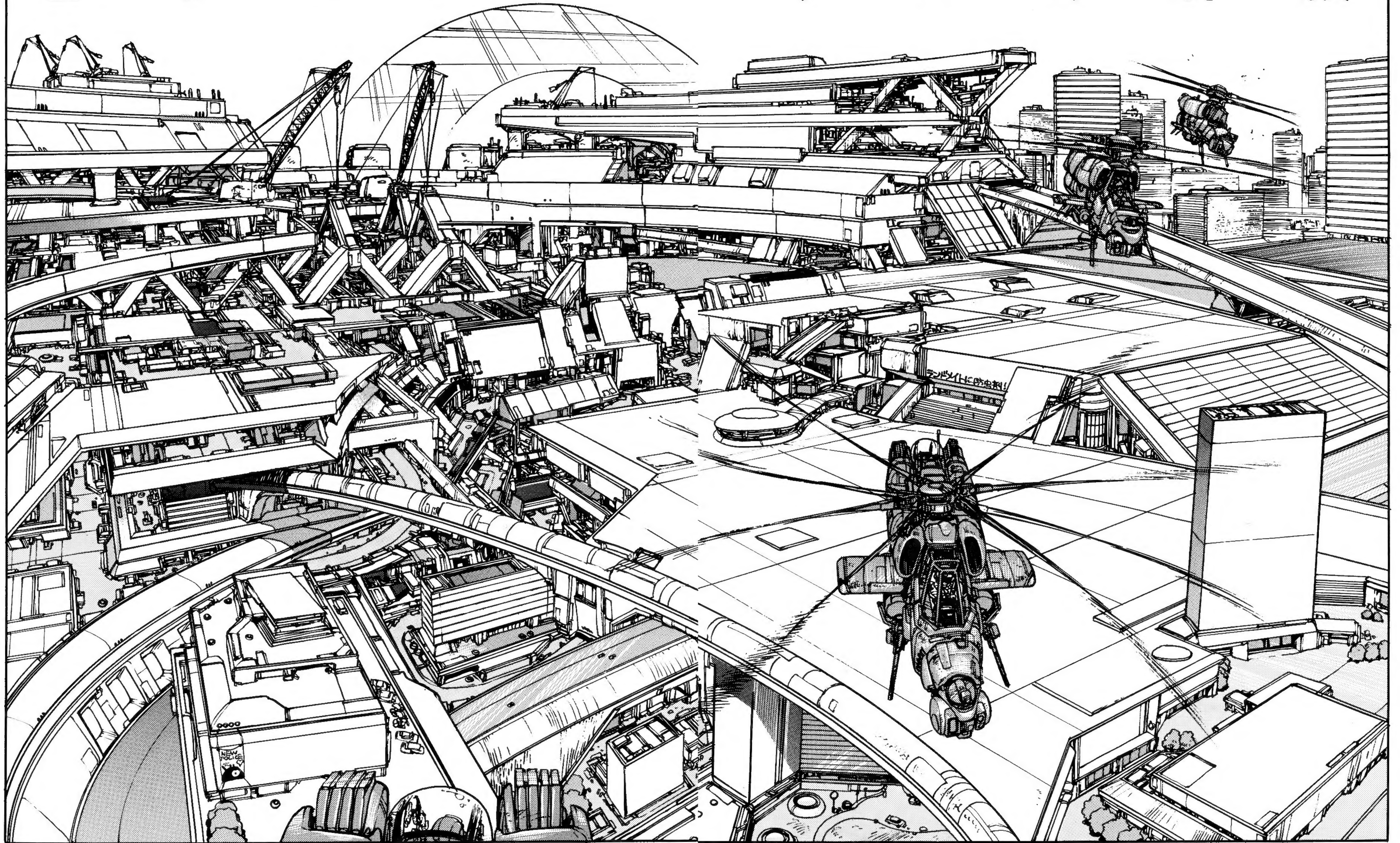
UNDER THE BENEVOLENT  
BUT WATCHFUL EYE OF  
AEGIS THE OLD NATIONS  
ARE RUSHING TO REBUILD  
FROM THE DESTRUCTION  
WROUGHT BY THE THIRD  
WORLD WAR.

YET PEOPLE STILL PAUSE  
SOMETIMES TO WONDER  
HOW THE WAR REALLY  
BEGAN--AND DARK CLOUDS  
HAVE BEGUN TO GATHER  
OVER AEGIS ITSELF...



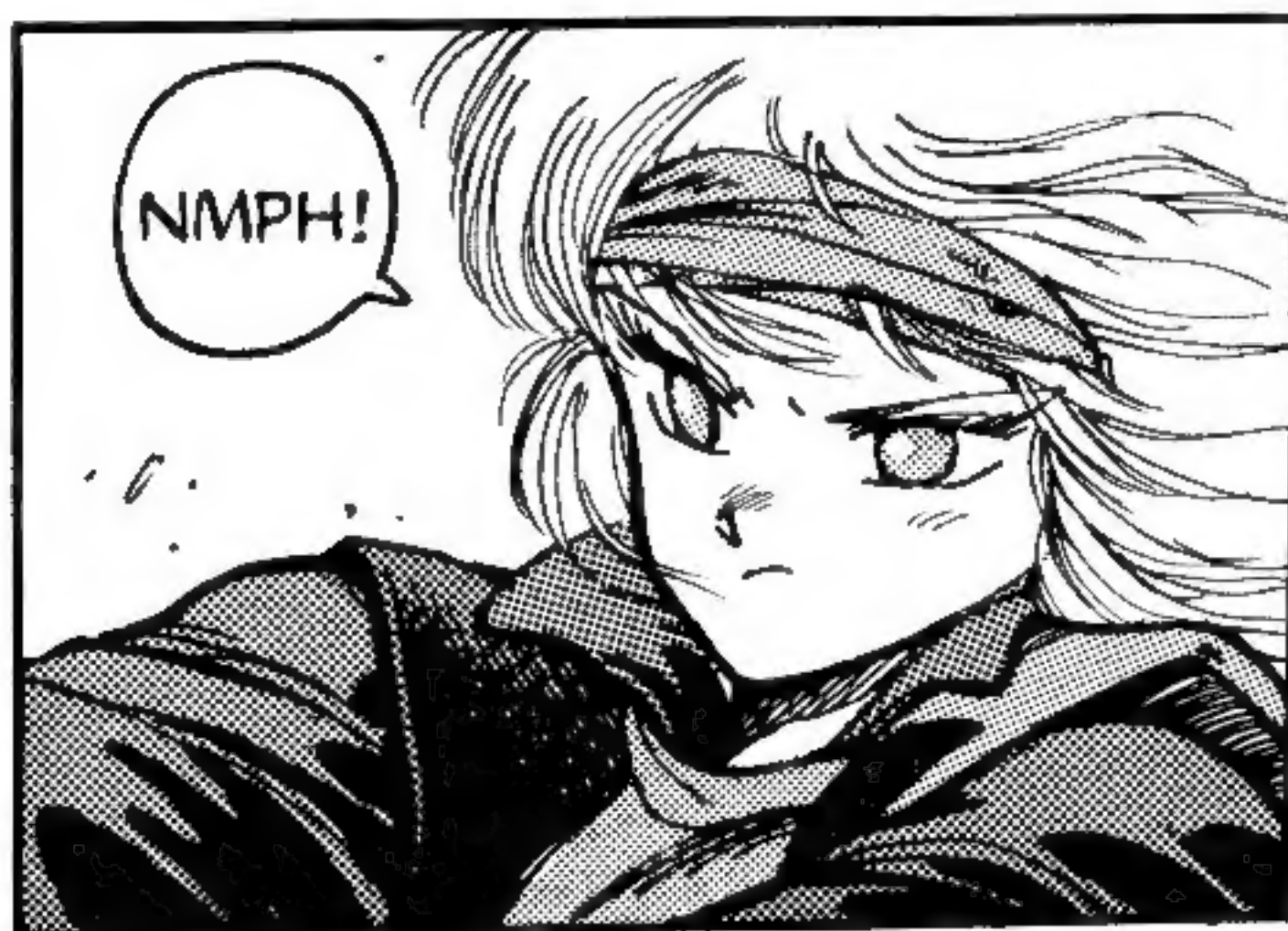
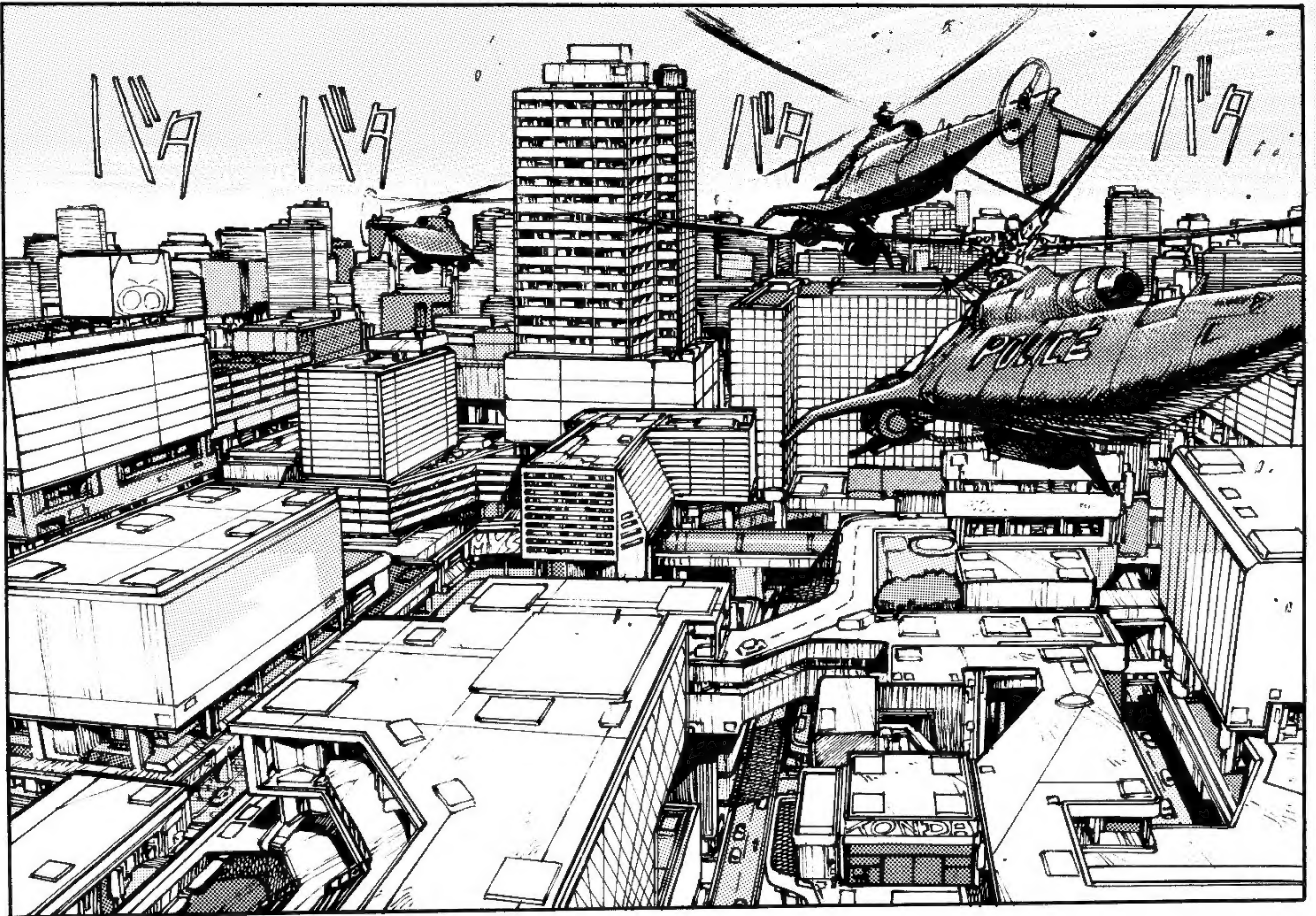


## 2. プロメテウスの解放

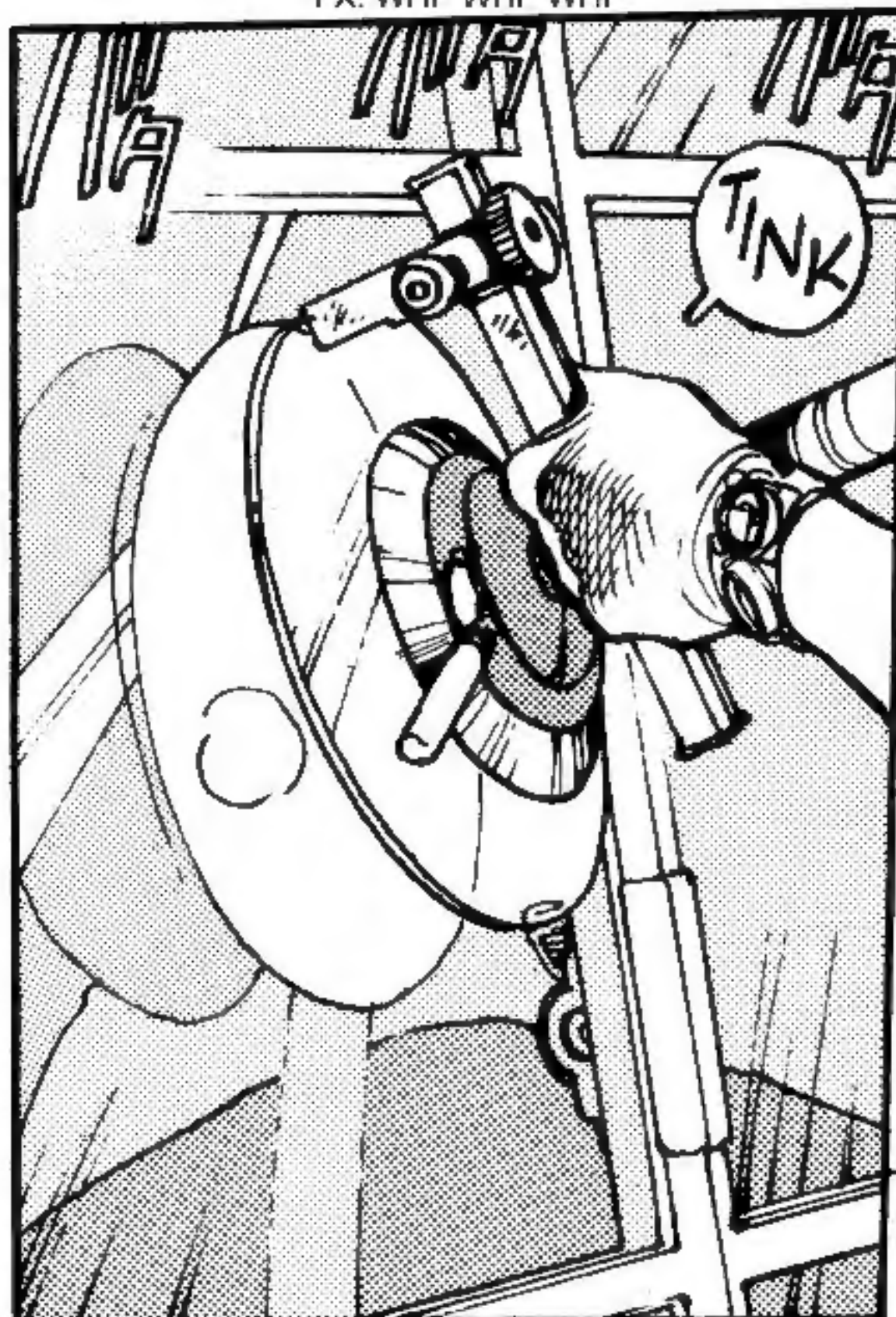




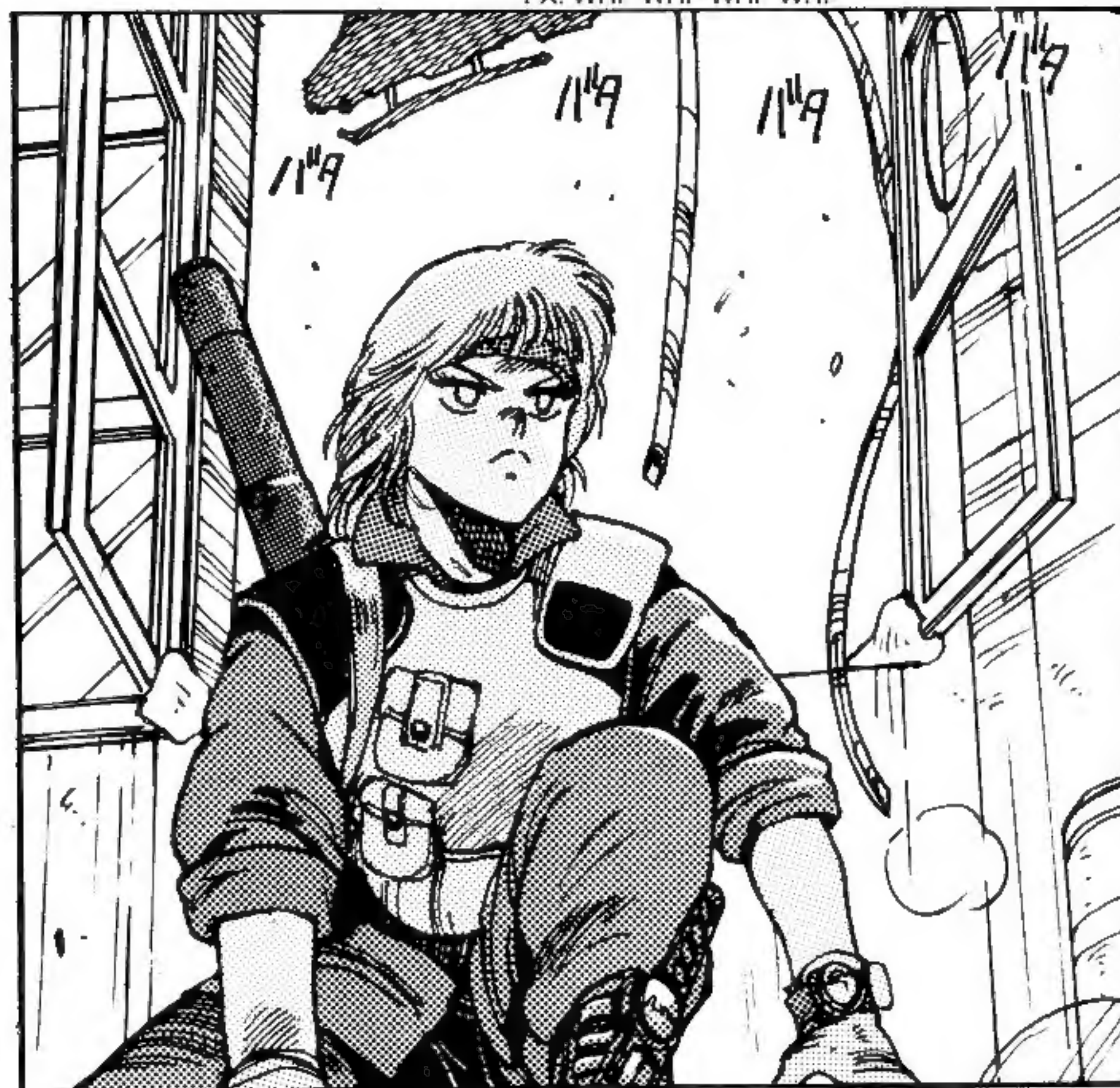
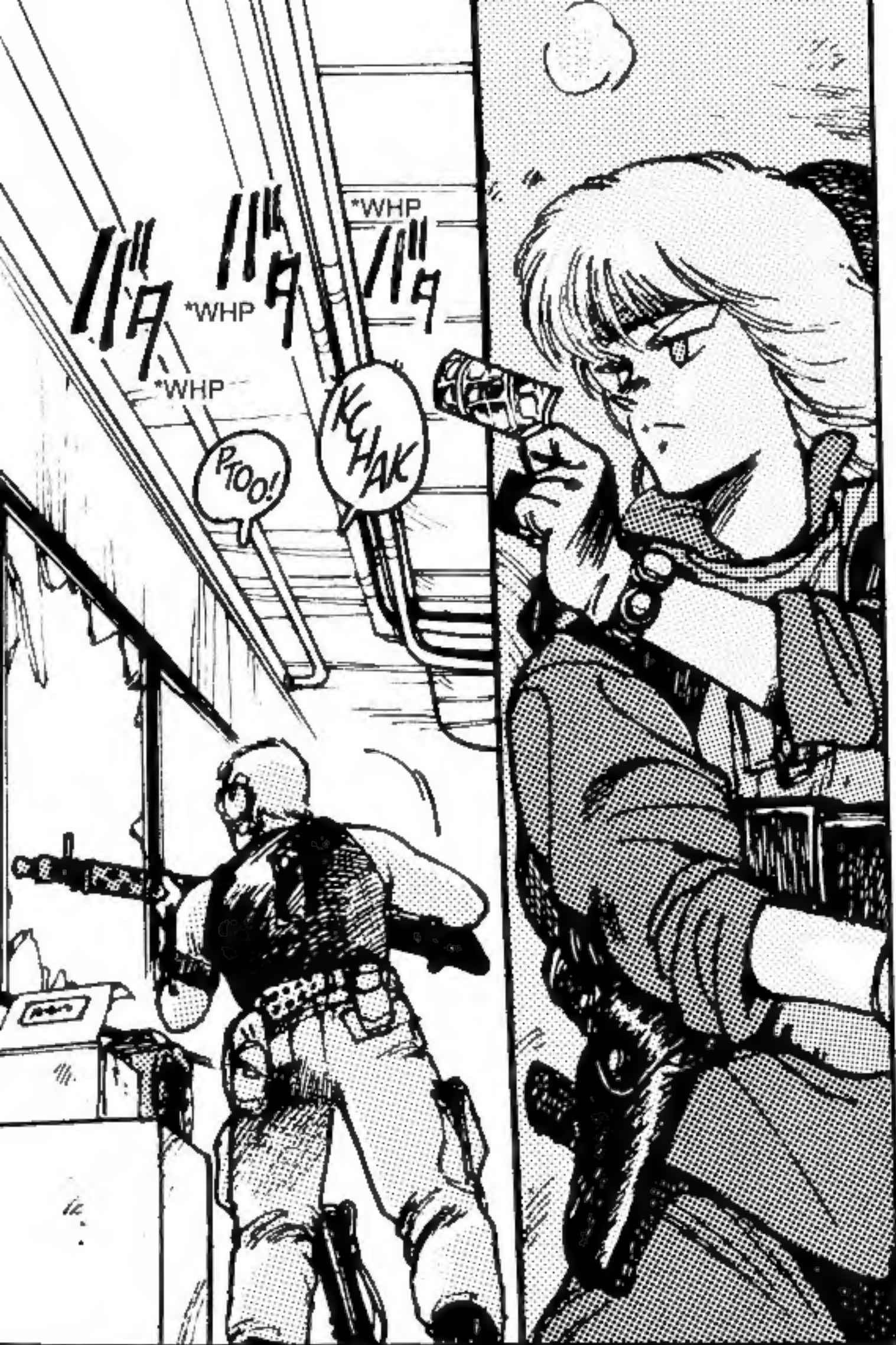
\*FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP



\*FX: WHP WHP WHP

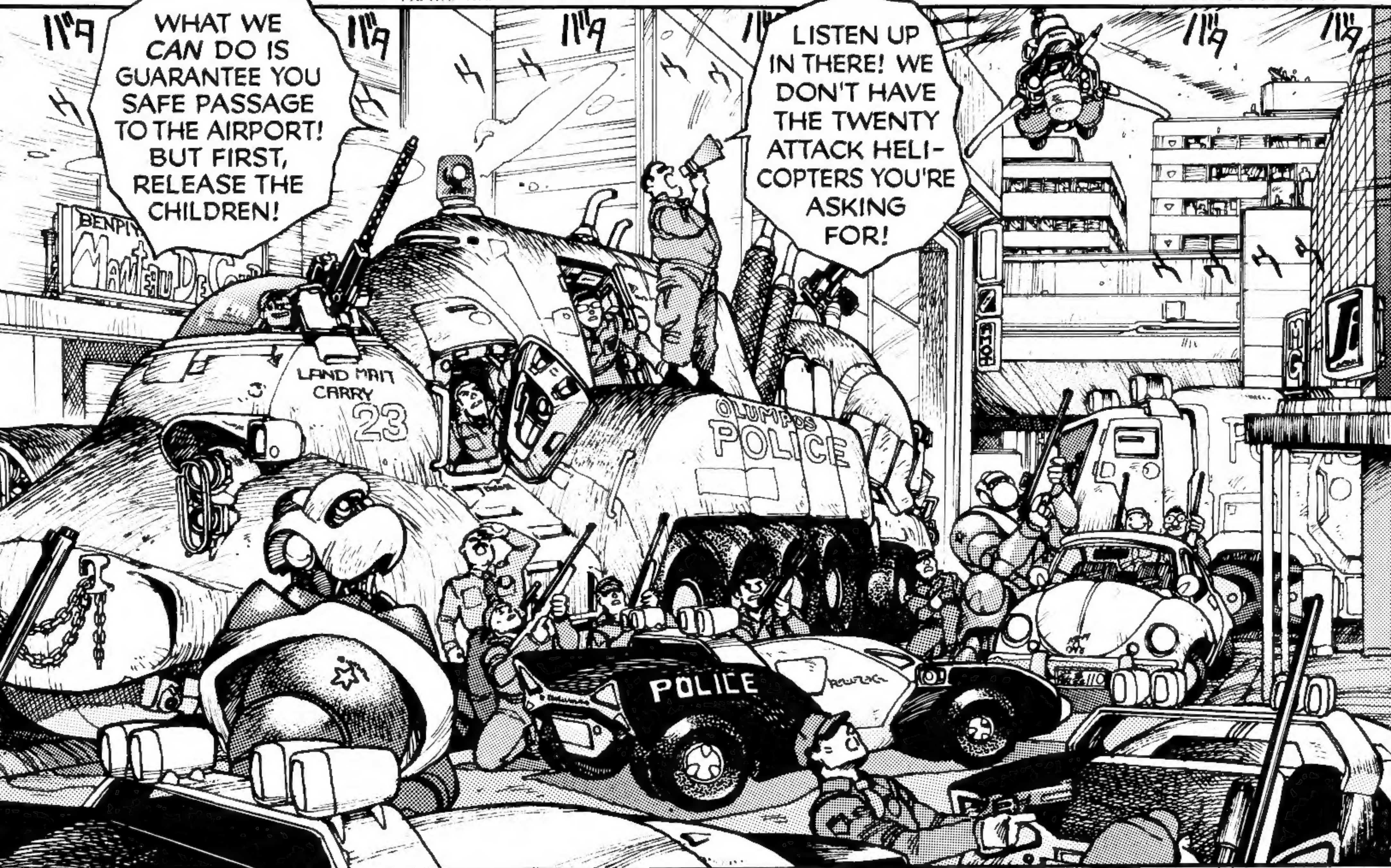




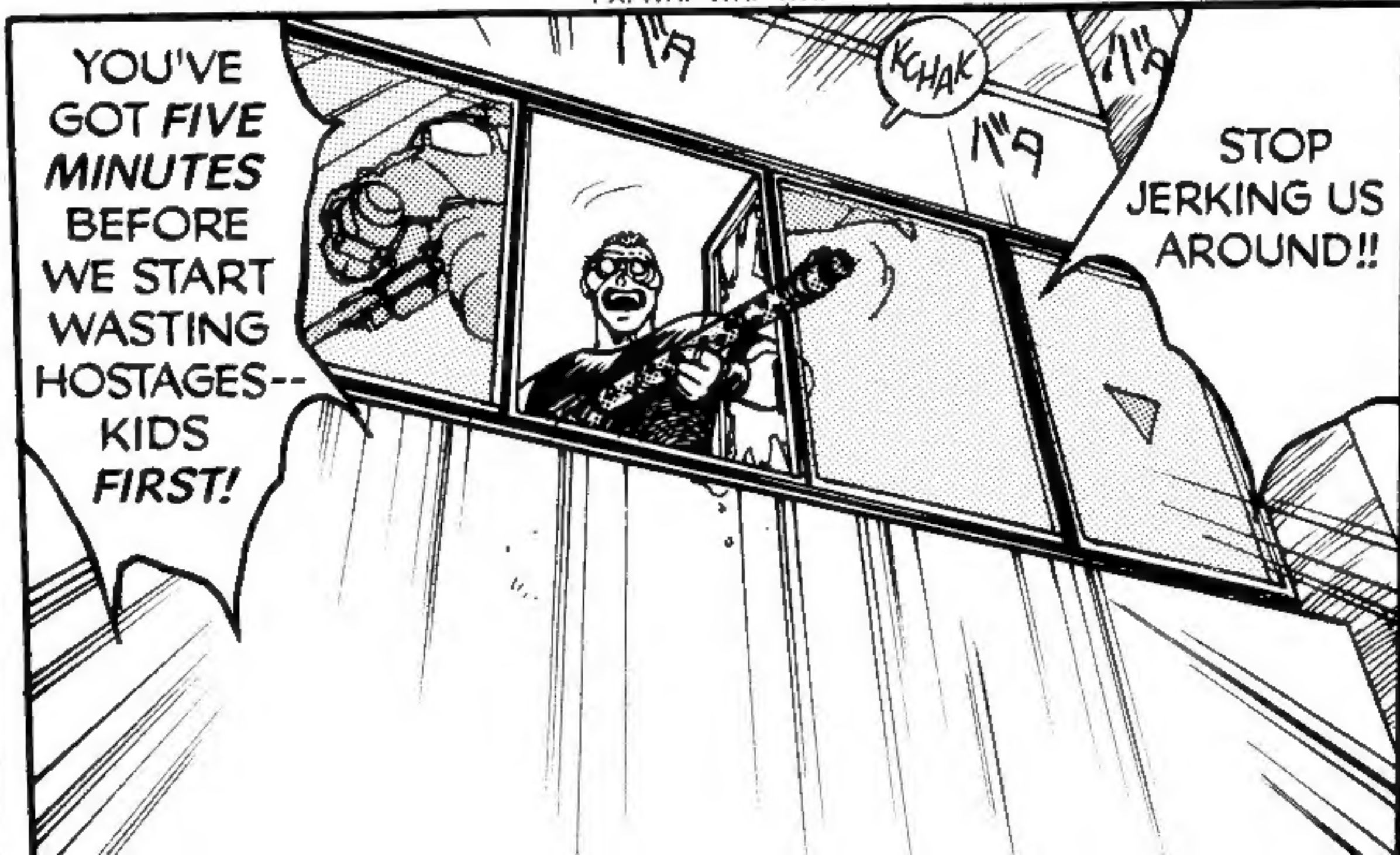


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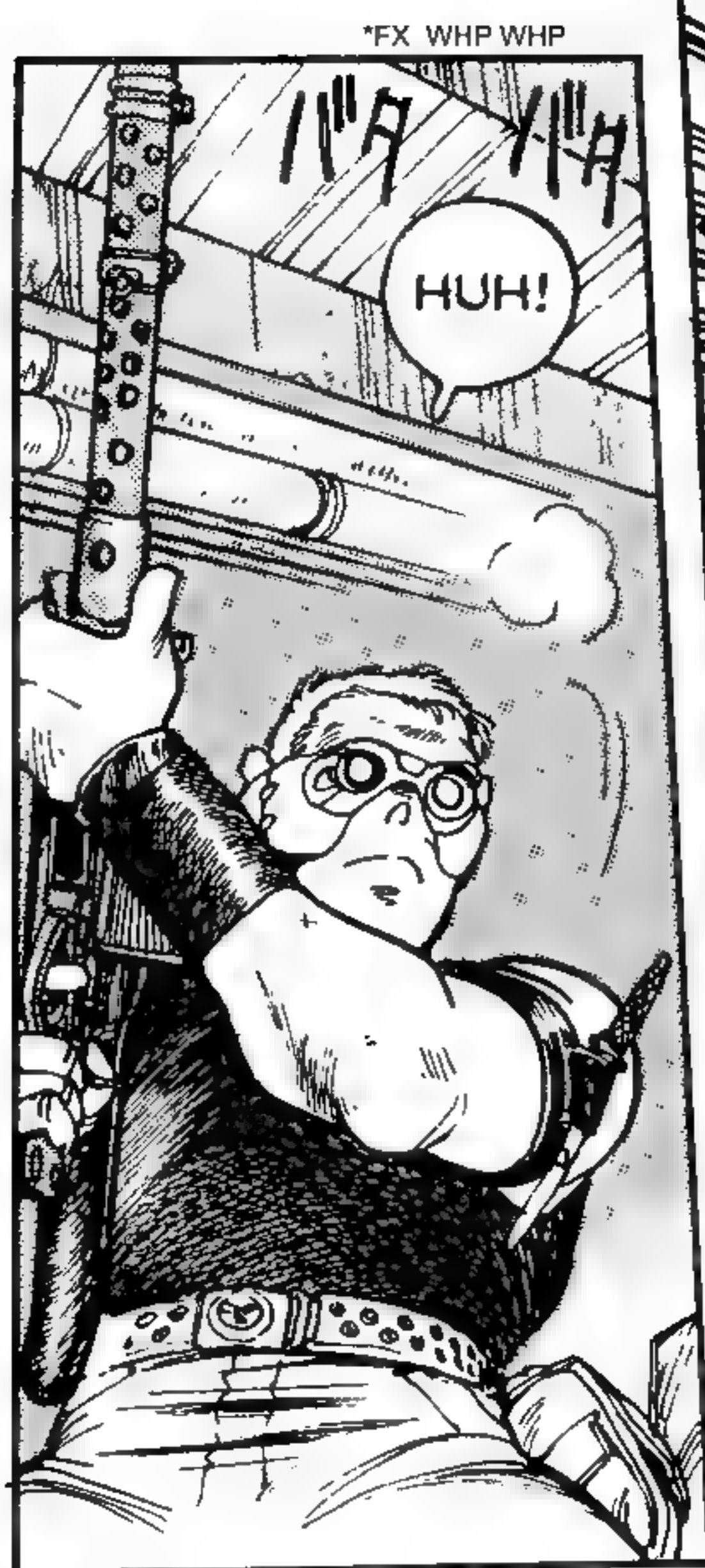
\*FX: WEOOOO WEOOOO



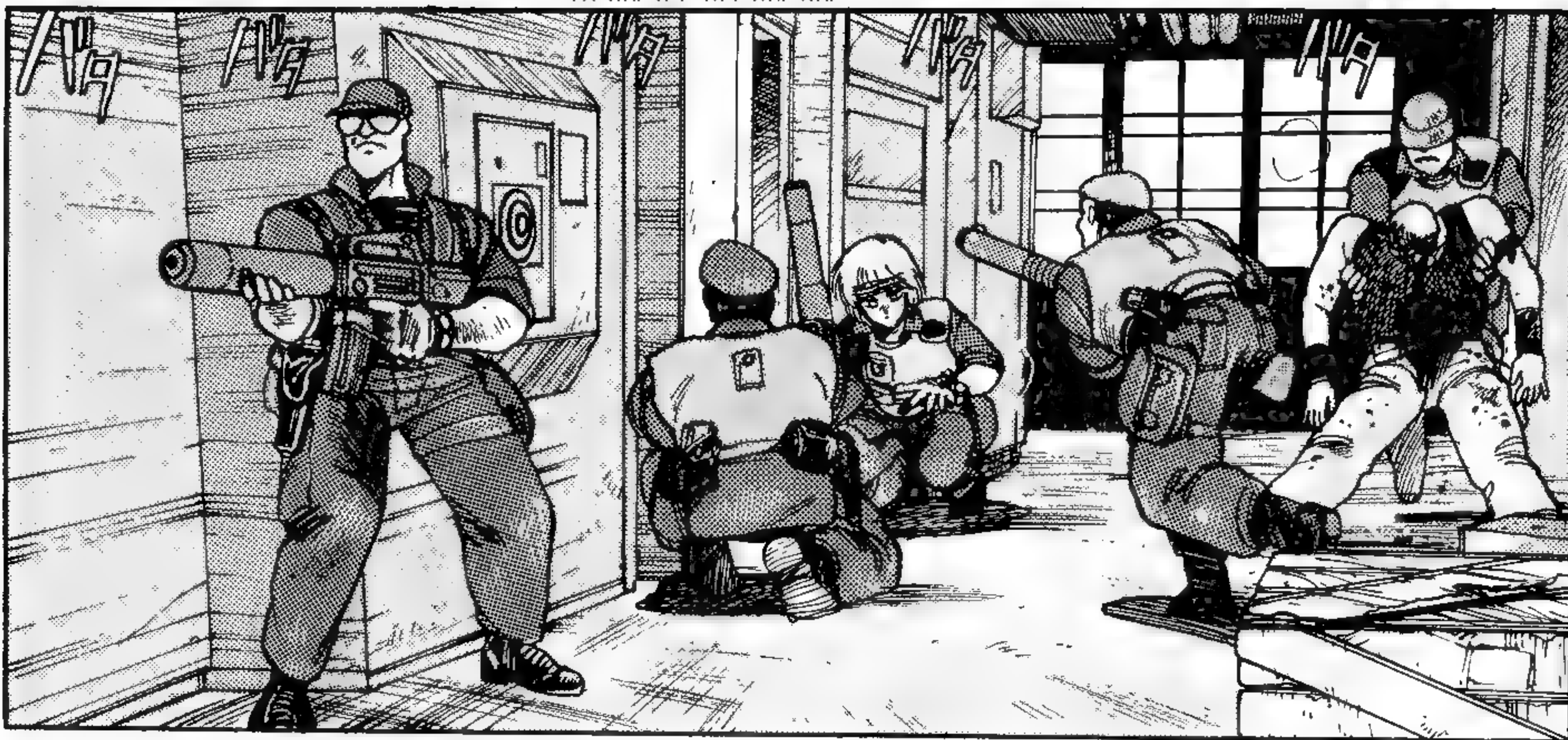
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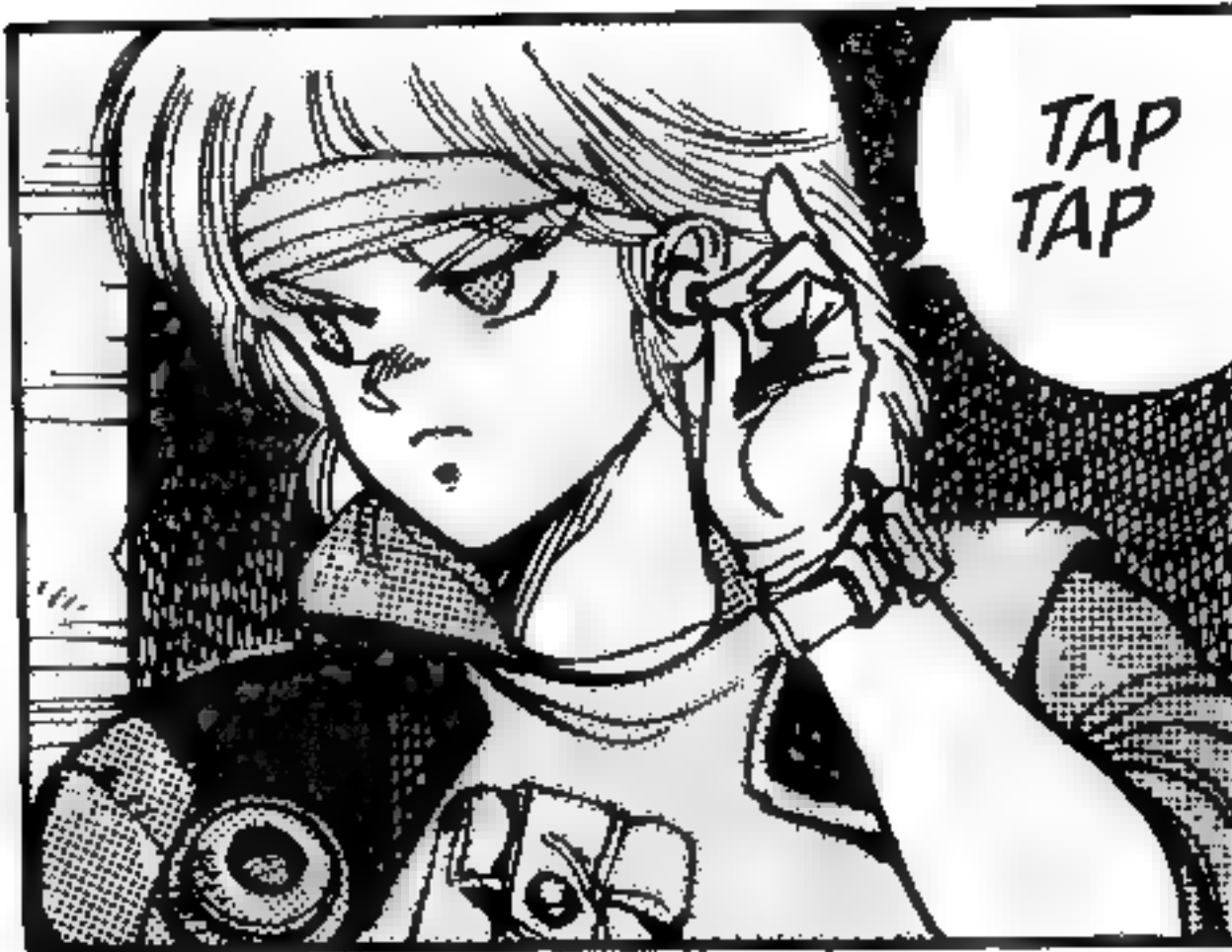
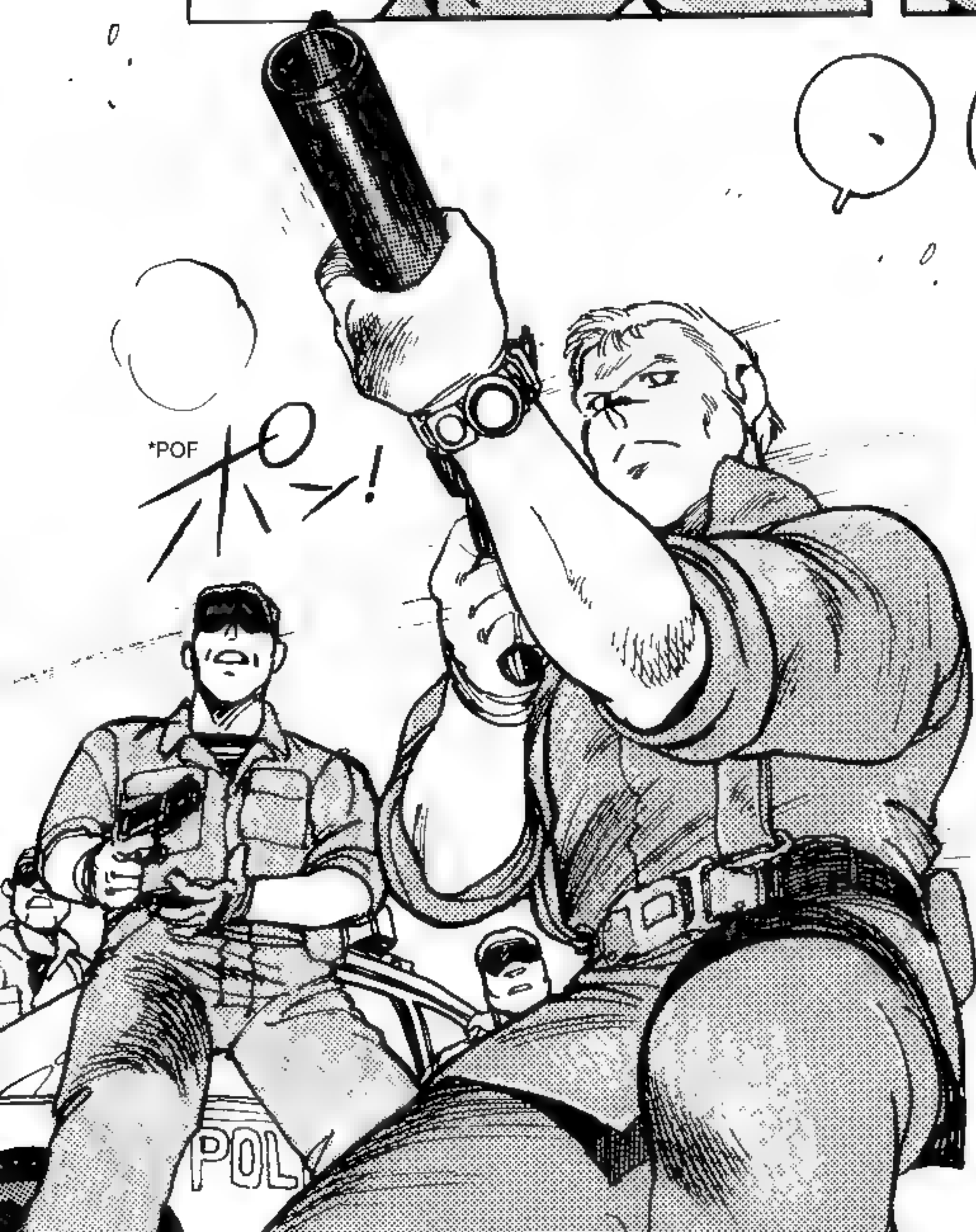




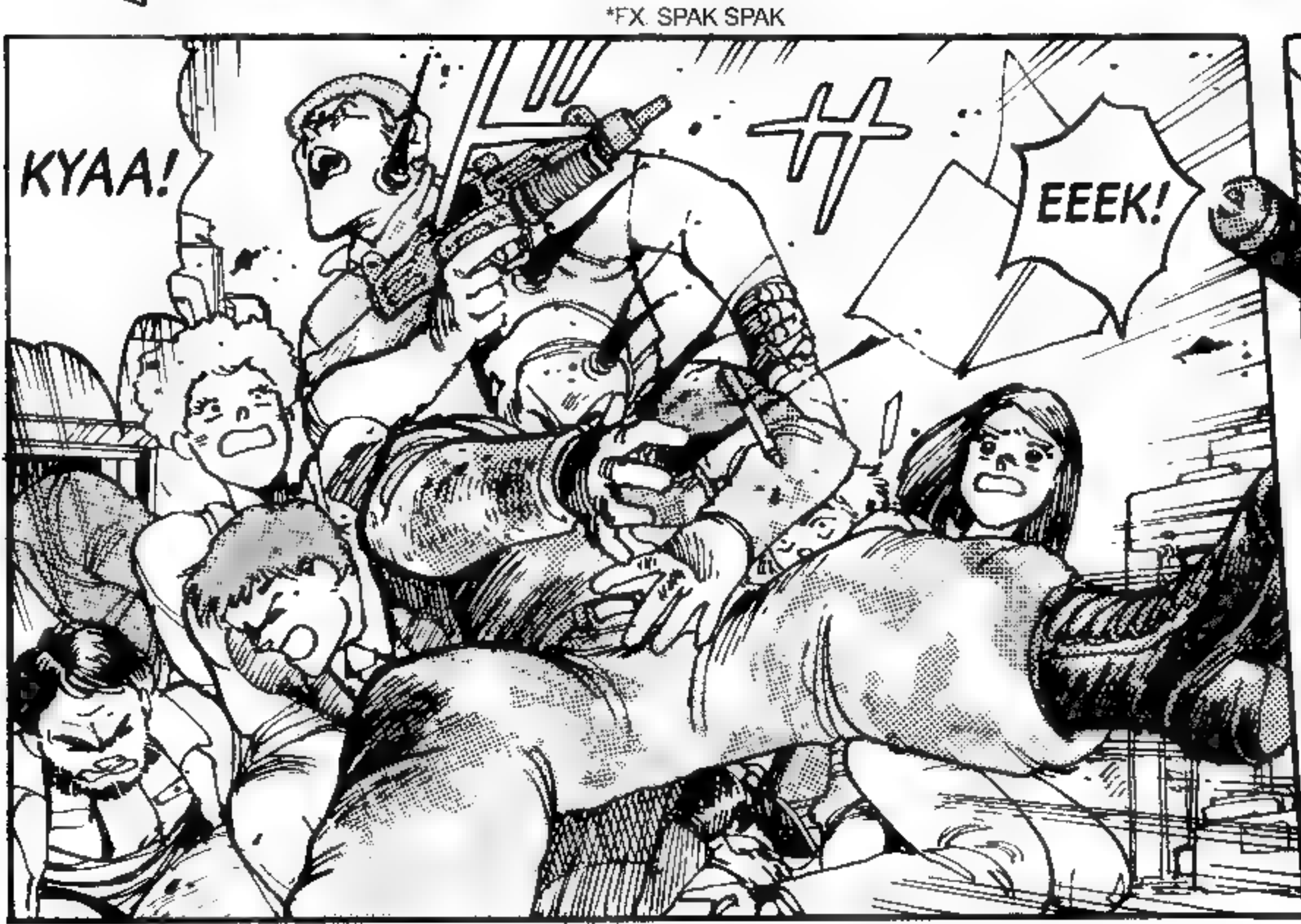


\*FX WHP WHP

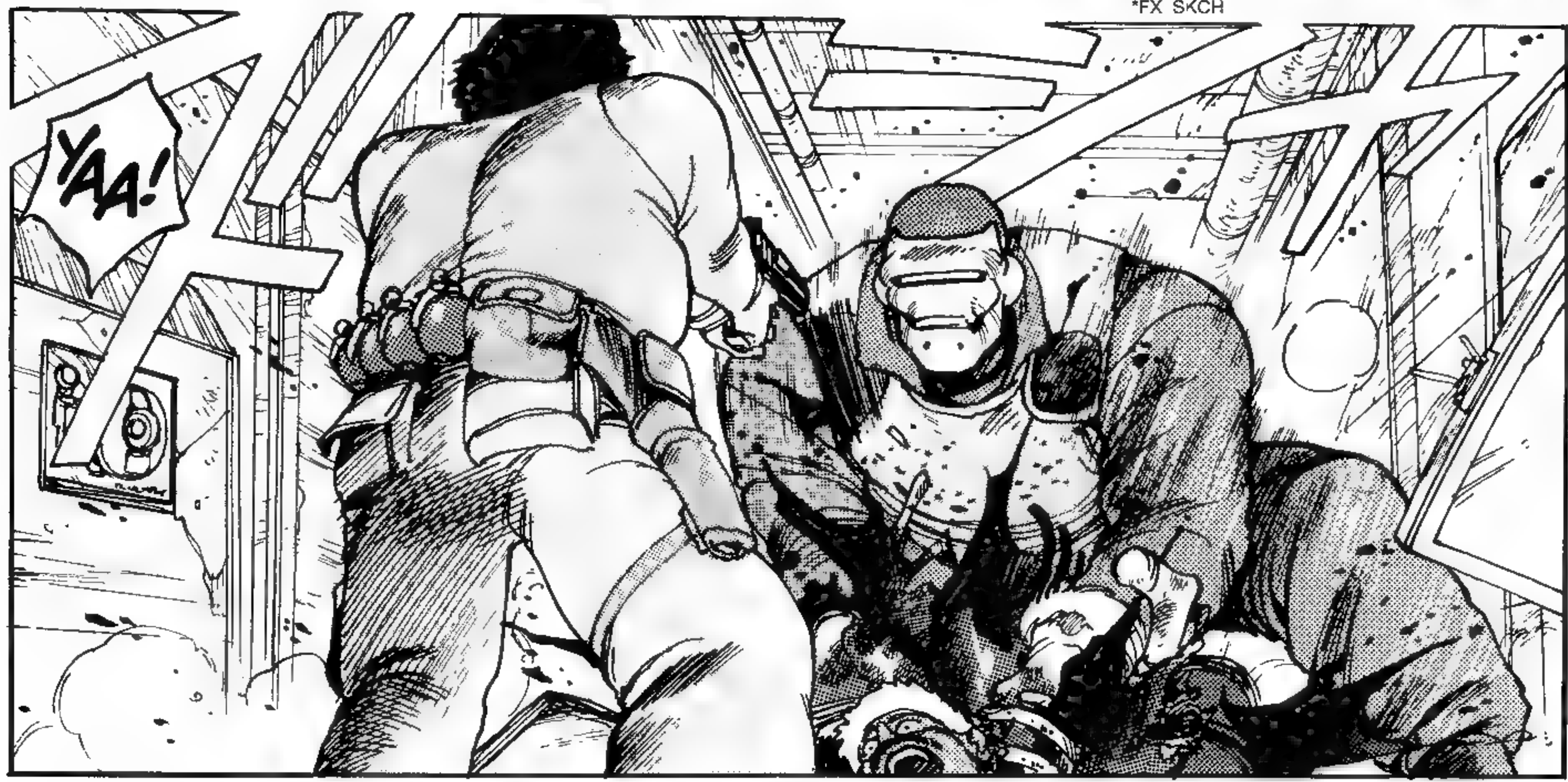
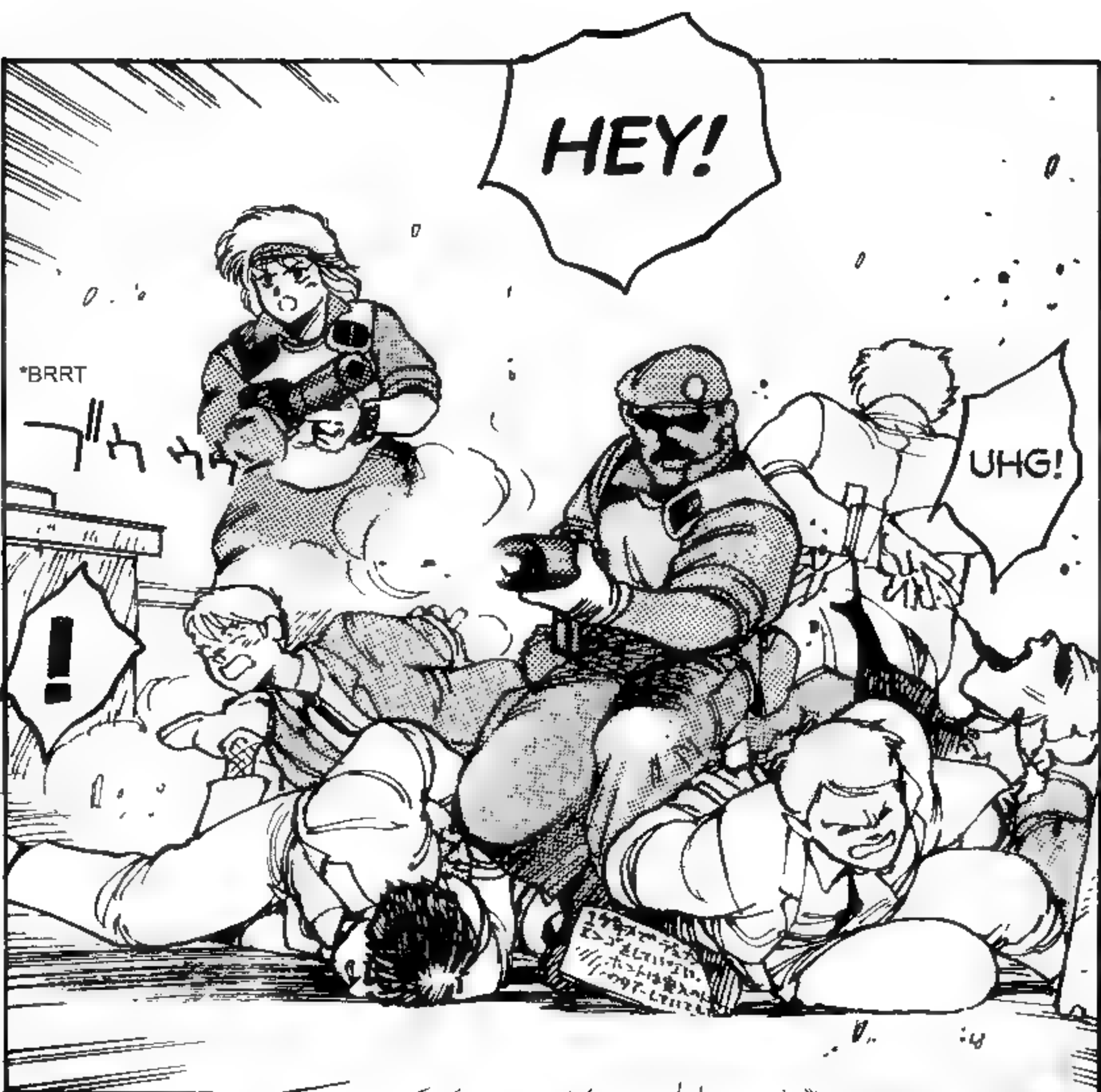
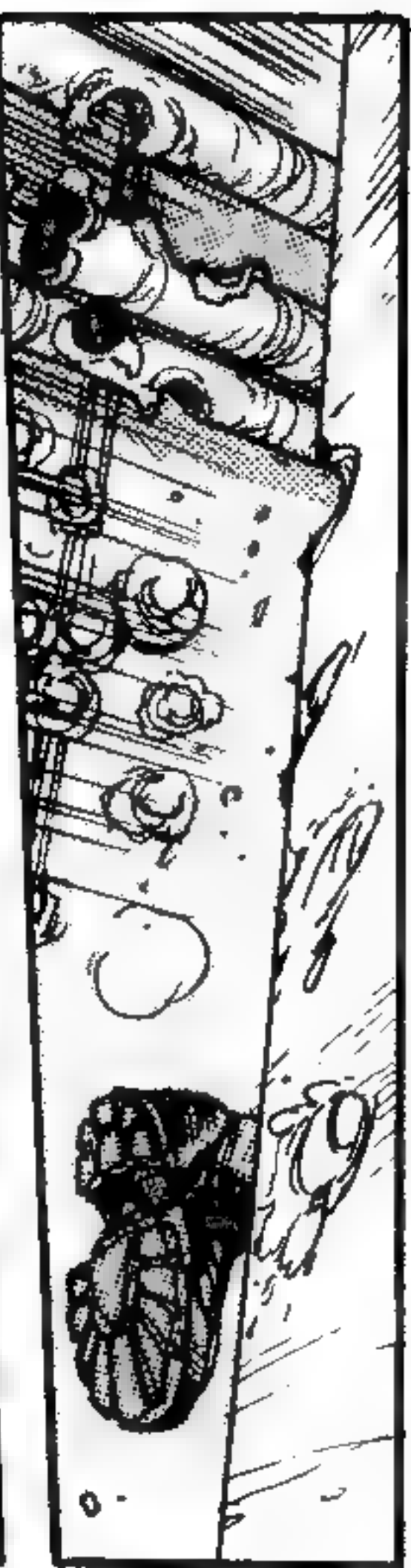
\*FX WHP WHP



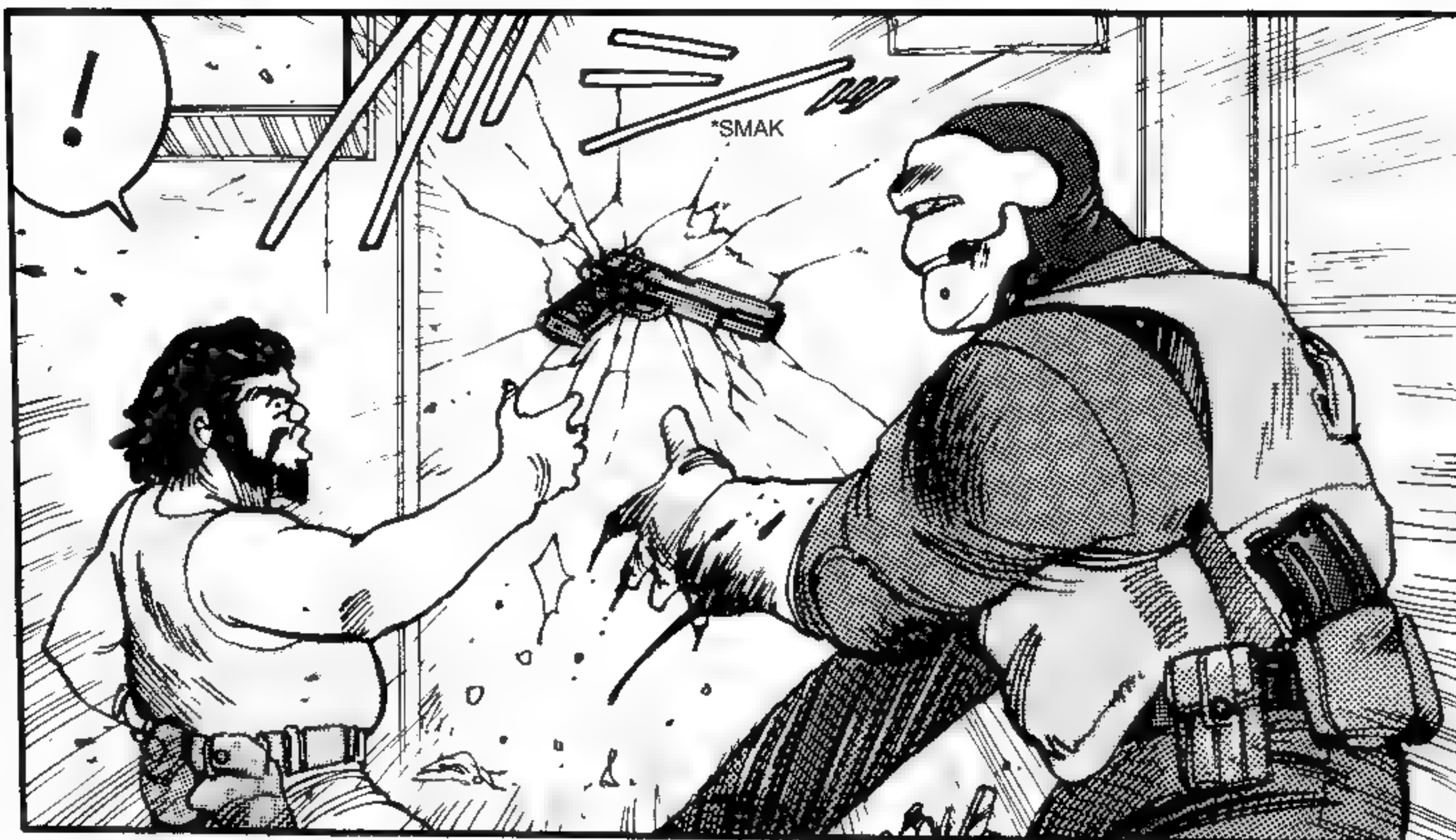




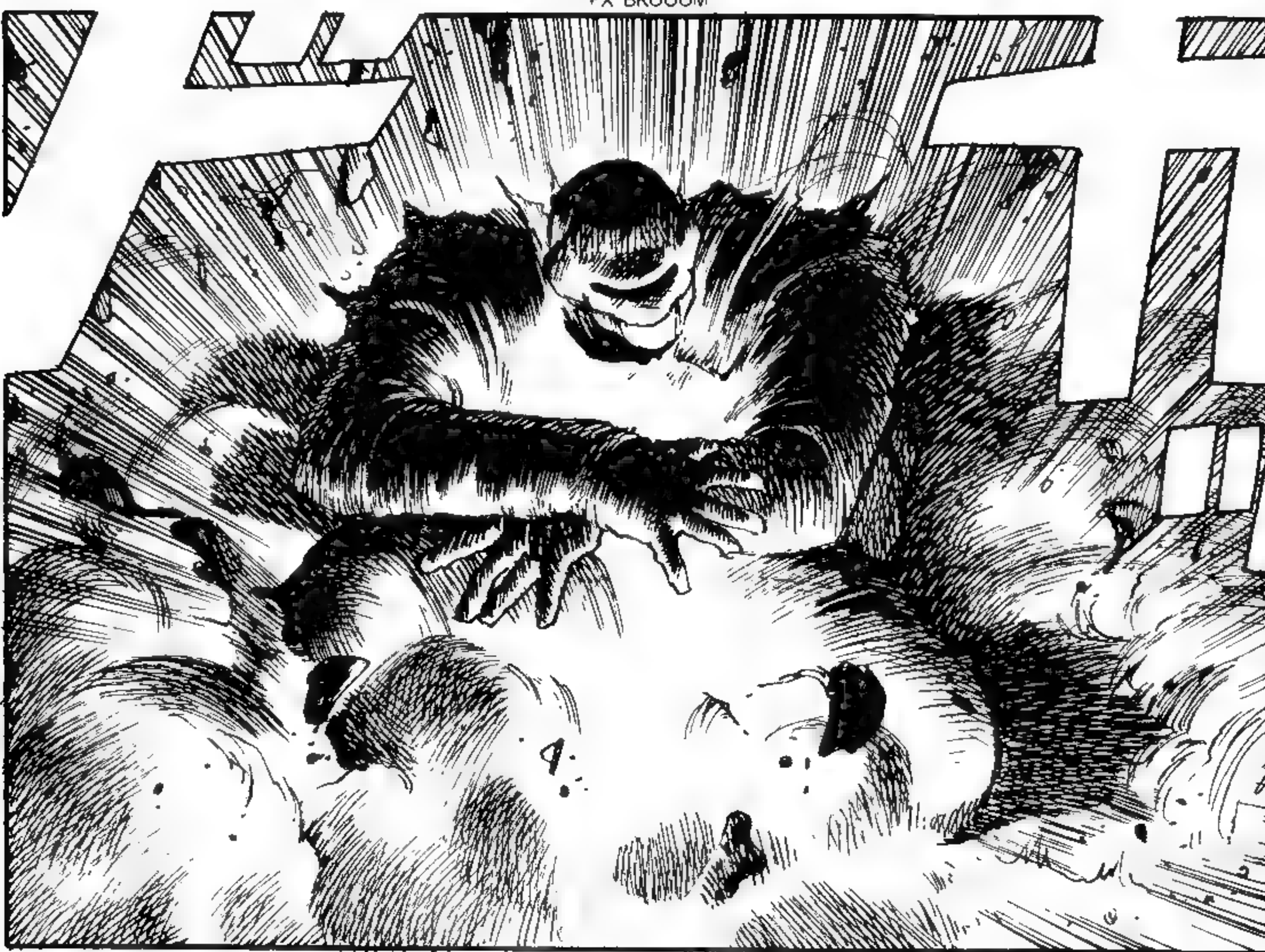








\*FX BKOOOM





\*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN



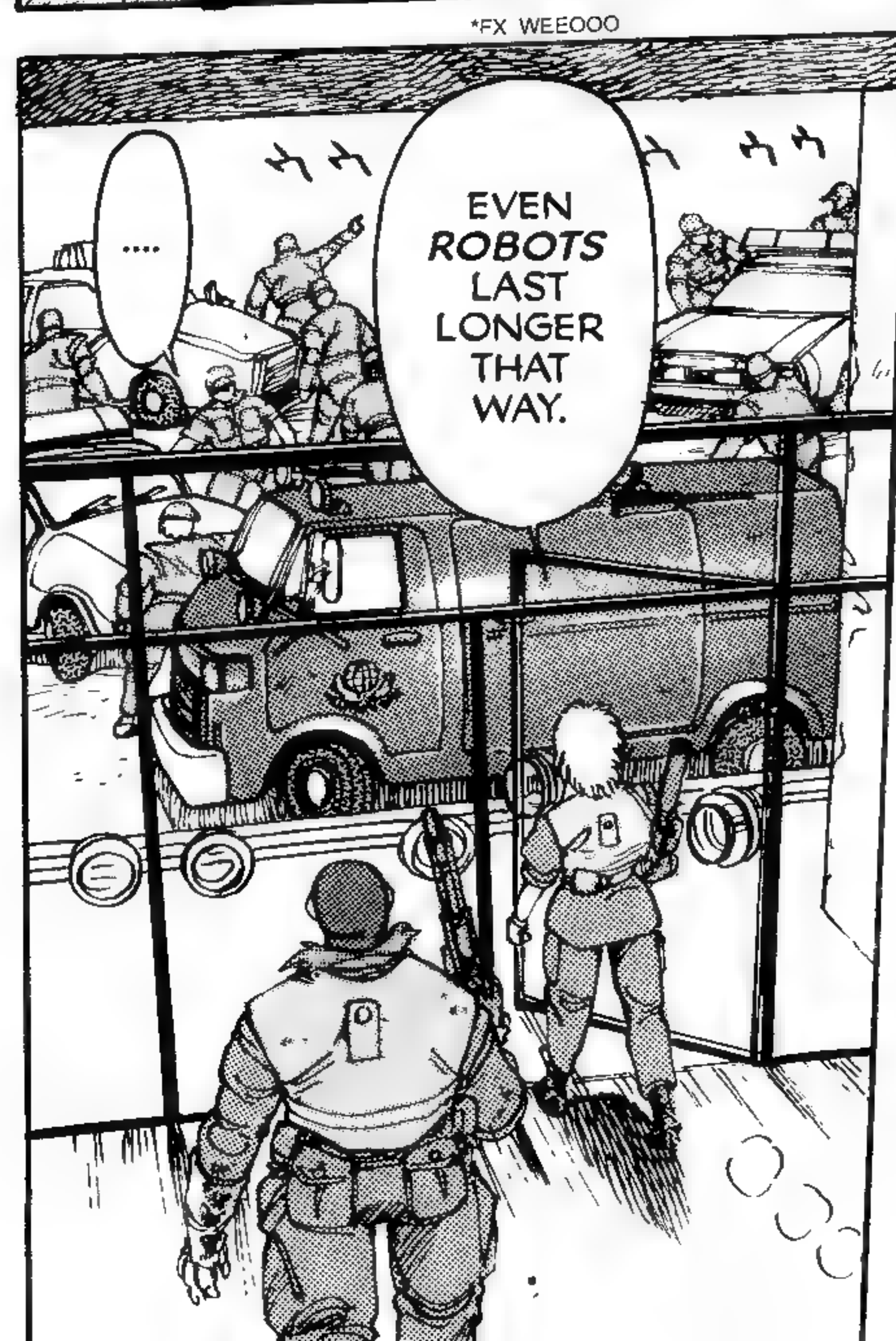
\*FX VNNNNN



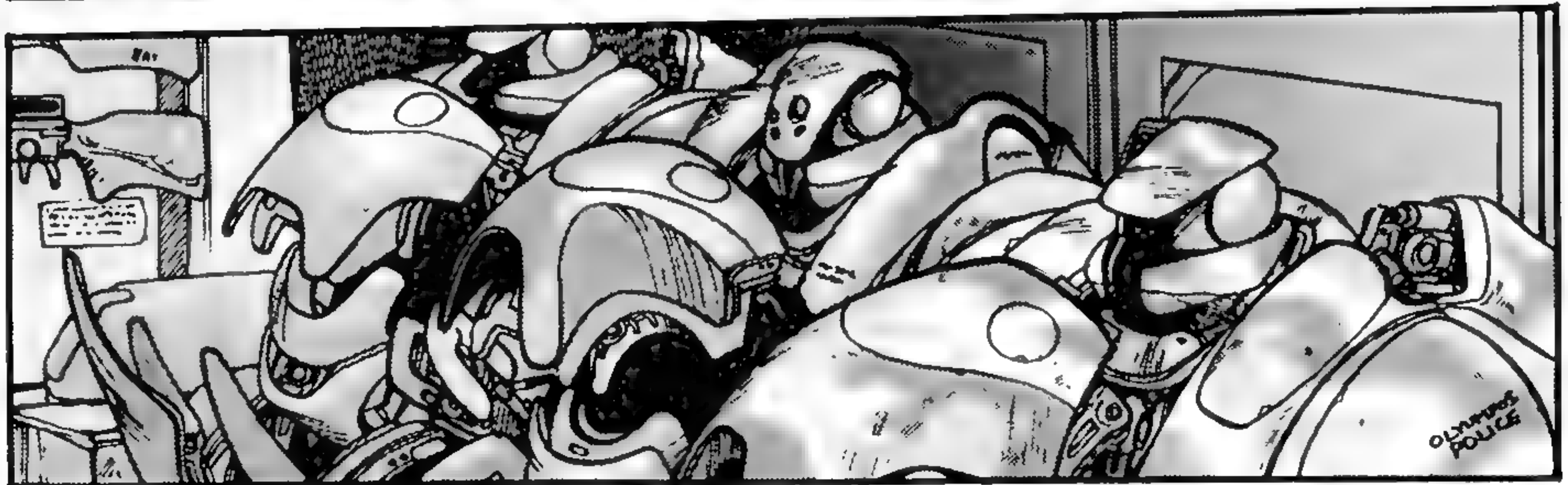
\*FX KRAK





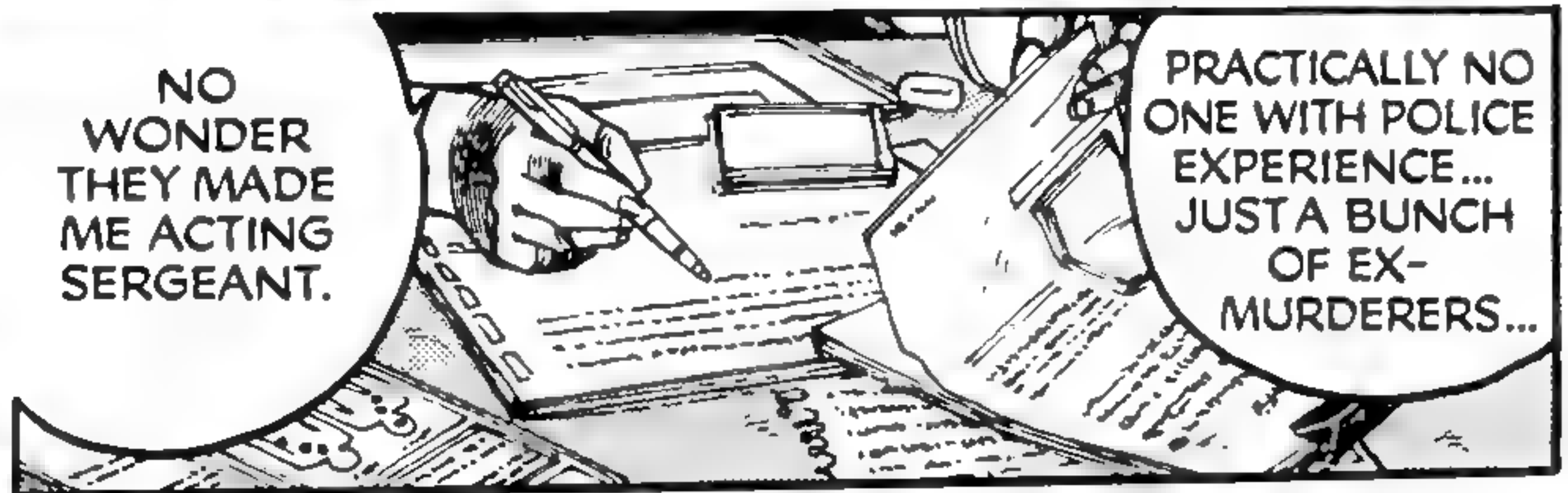






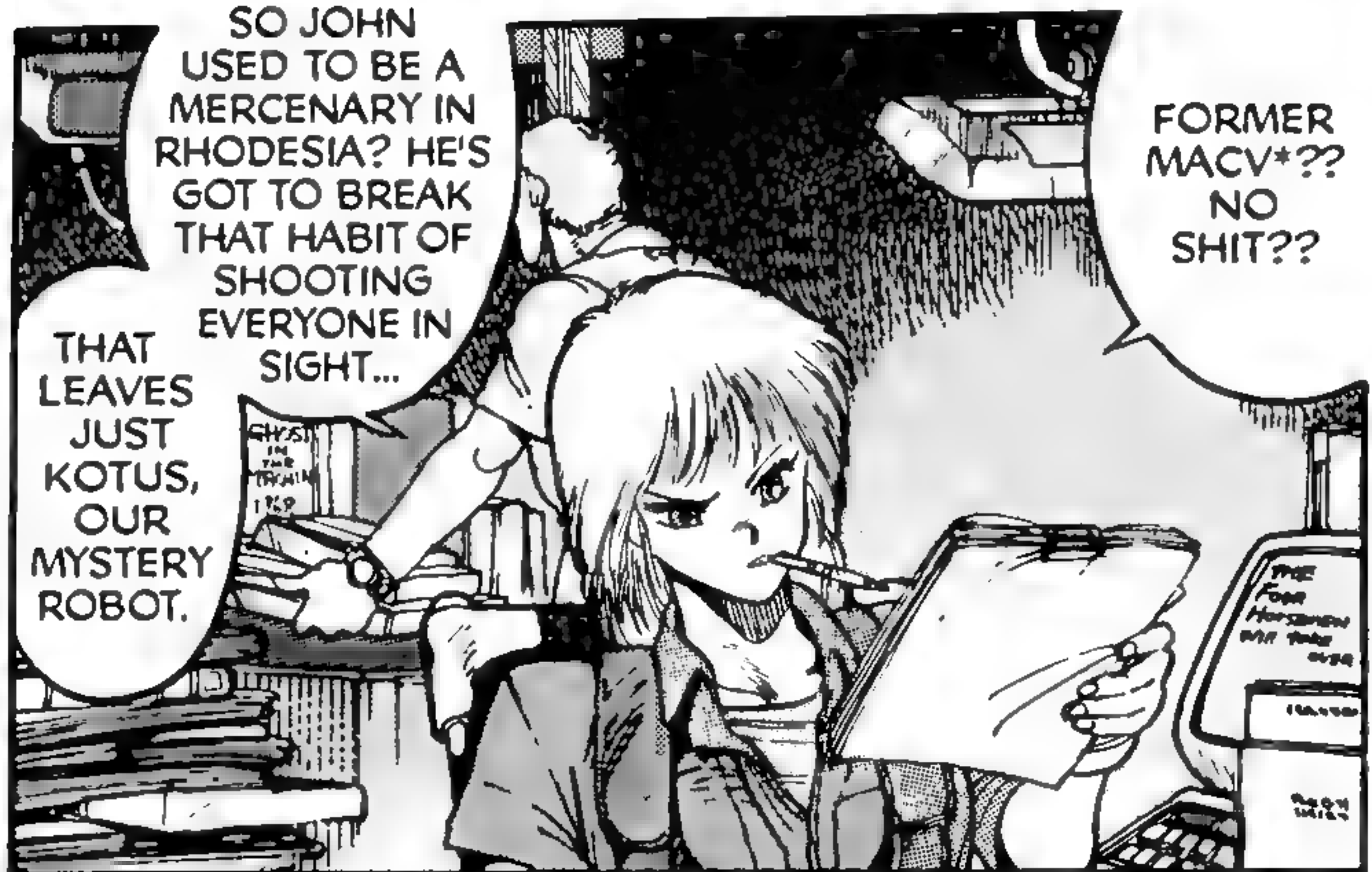
YO,  
THERE--  
WORKING  
HARD,  
ARE WE,  
DEUNAN?

SER-  
GEANT!



NO  
WONDER  
THEY MADE  
ME ACTING  
SERGEANT.

PRACTICALLY NO  
ONE WITH POLICE  
EXPERIENCE...  
JUST A BUNCH  
OF EX-  
MURDERERS...



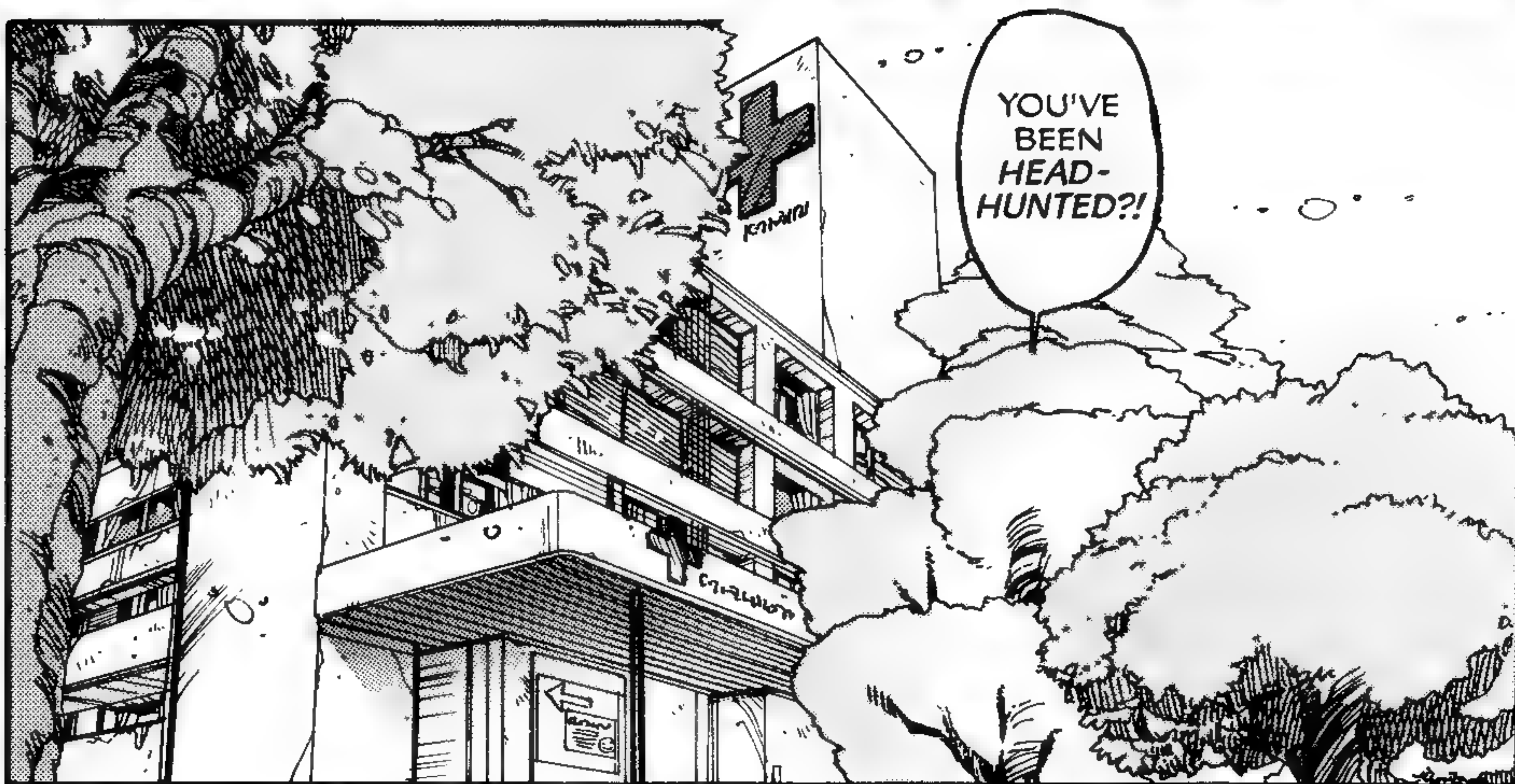
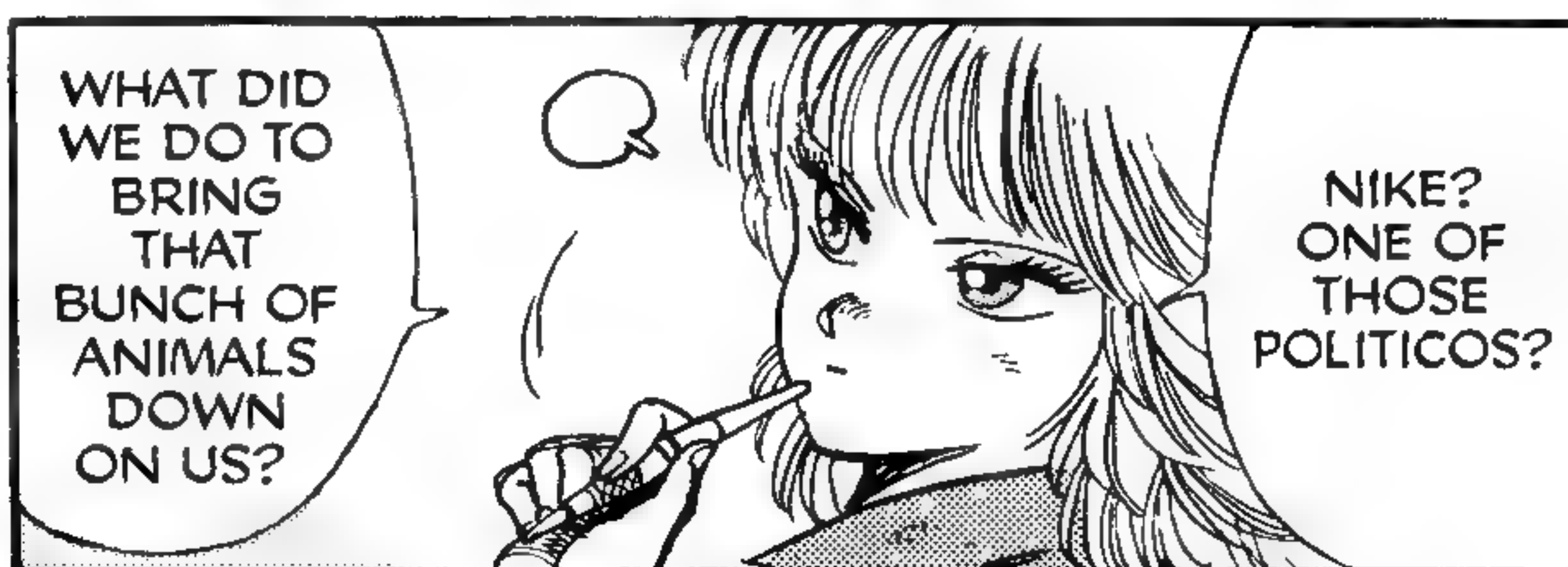
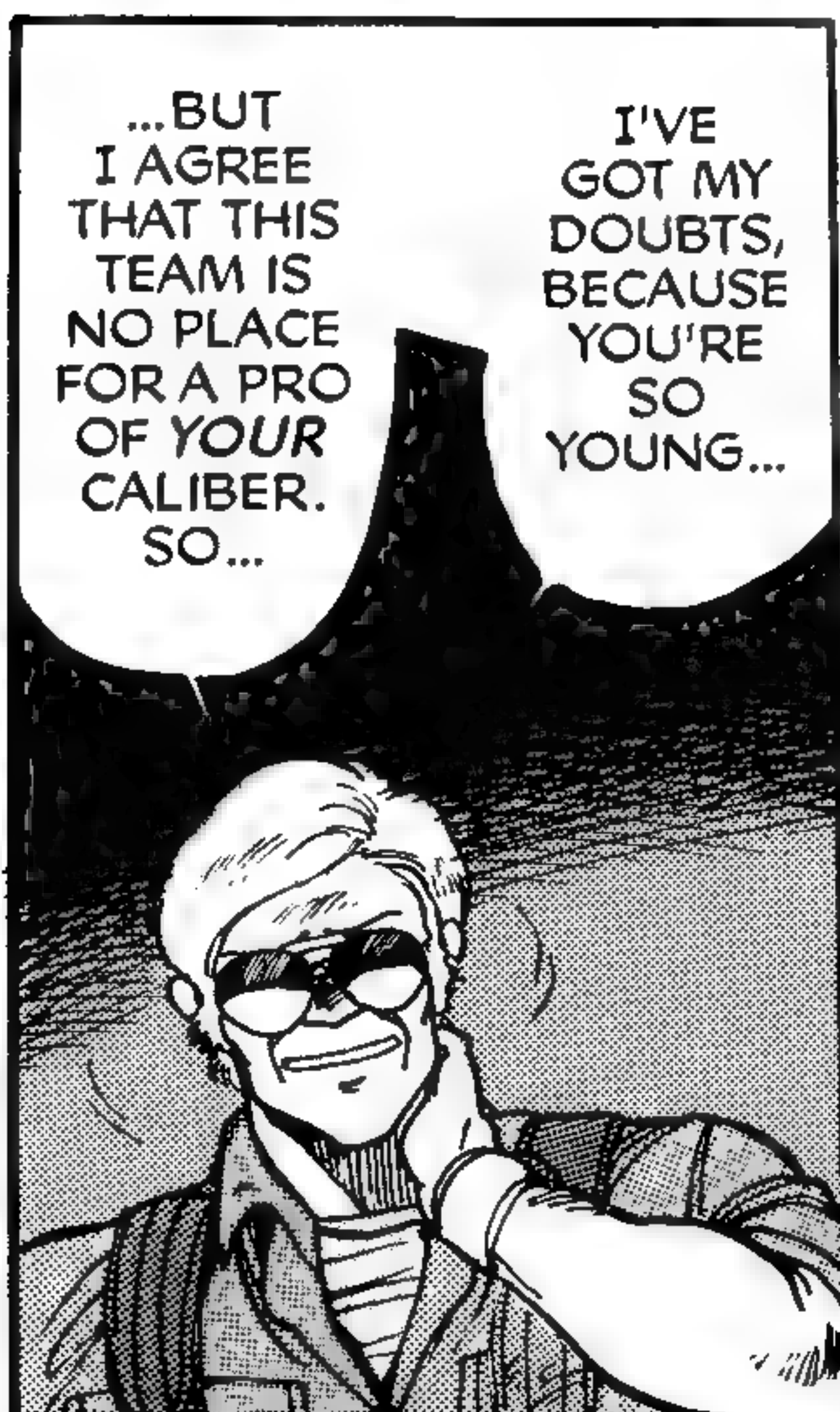
SO JOHN  
USED TO BE A  
MERCENARY IN  
RHODESIA? HE'S  
GOT TO BREAK  
THAT HABIT OF  
SHOOTING  
EVERYONE IN  
SIGHT...

THAT  
LEAVES  
JUST  
KOTUS,  
OUR  
MYSTERY  
ROBOT.

FORMER  
MACV\*??  
NO  
SHIT??

\*MACV: CIA special operations group.

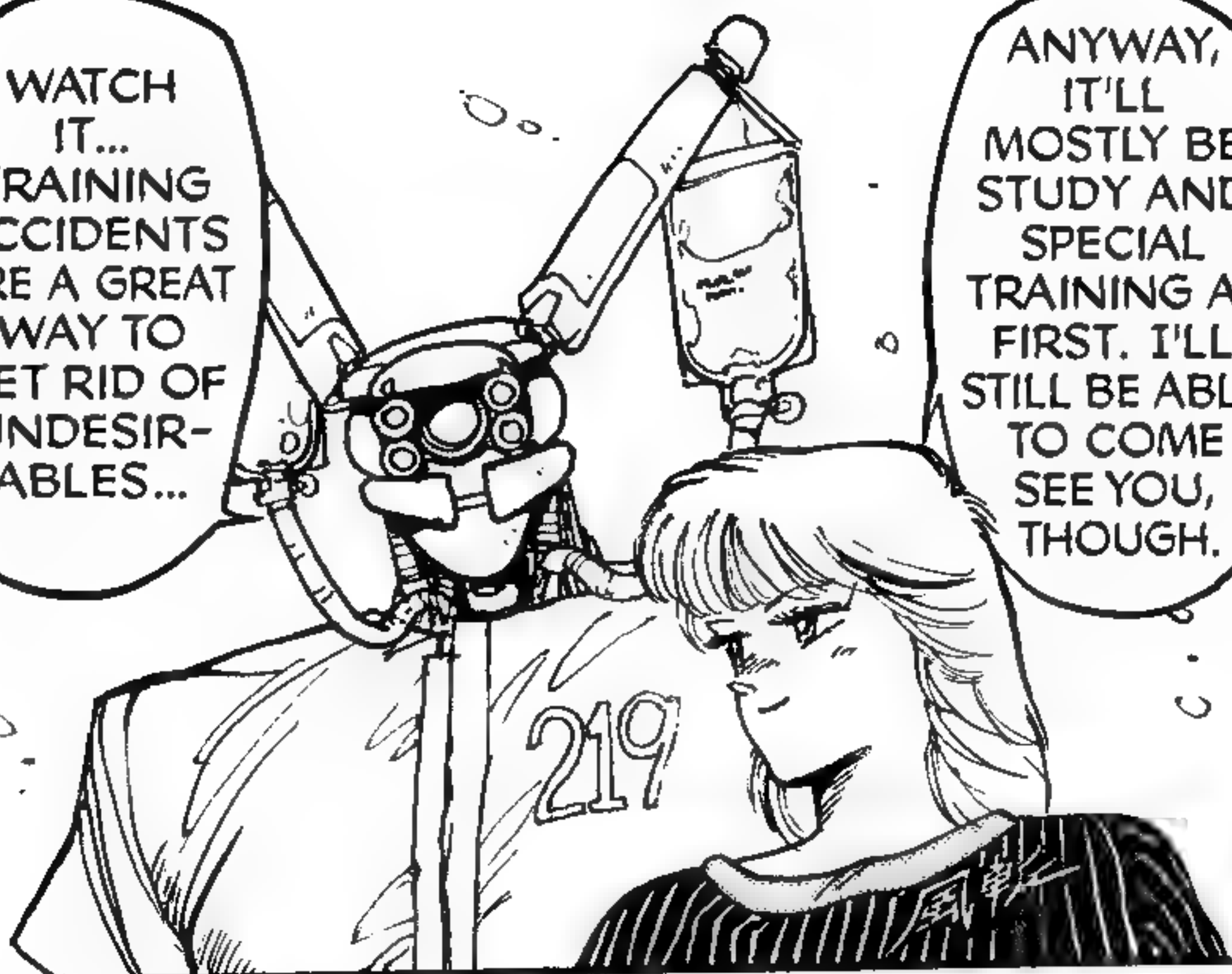






WATCH IT... TRAINING ACCIDENTS ARE A GREAT WAY TO GET RID OF UNDESIRABLES...

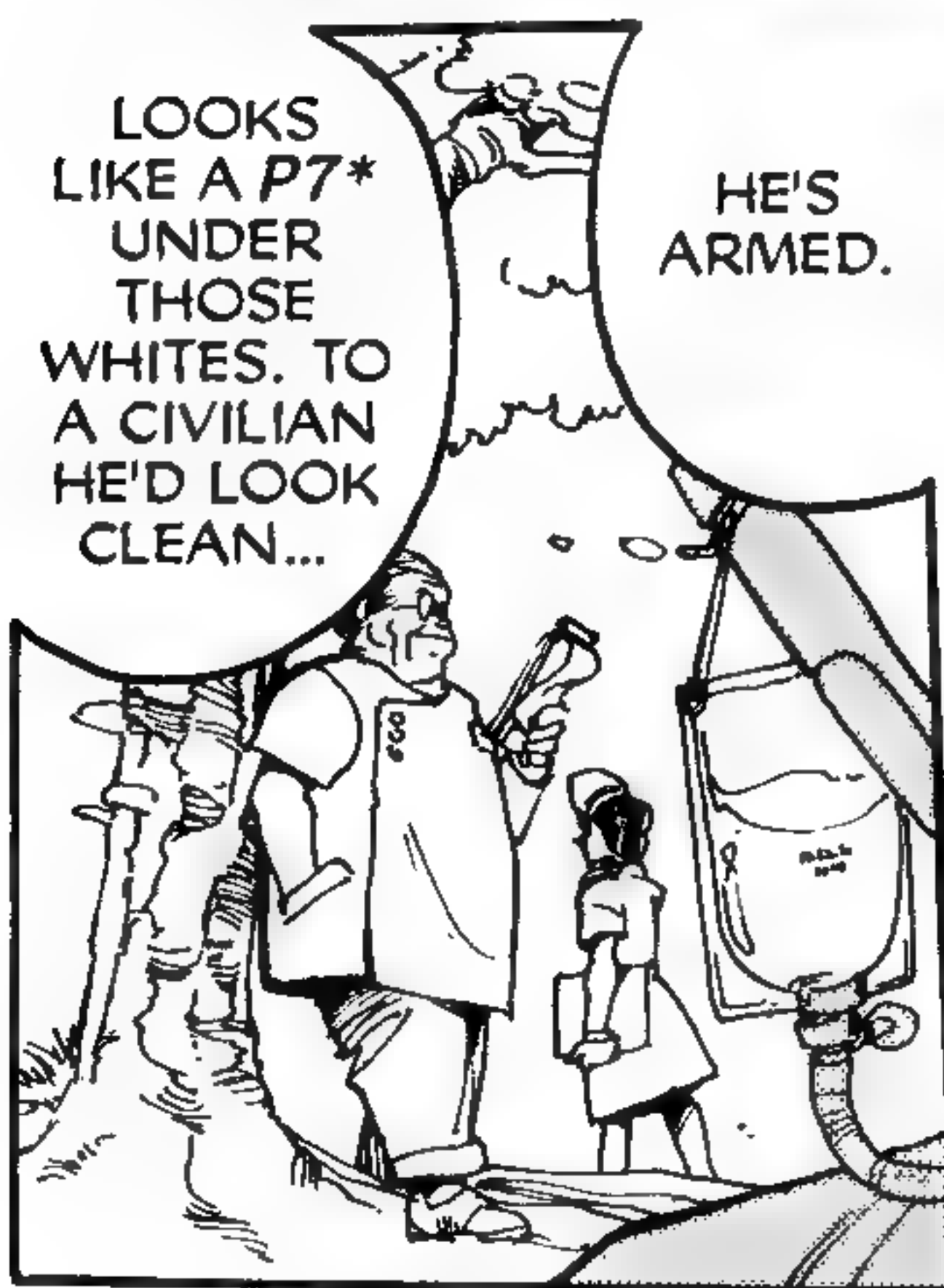
ANYWAY, IT'LL MOSTLY BE STUDY AND SPECIAL TRAINING AT FIRST. I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO COME SEE YOU, THOUGH.



LOOKS LIKE A P7\* UNDER THOSE WHITES. TO A CIVILIAN HE'D LOOK CLEAN...

HE'S ARMED.

I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AT FIRST, BUT DON'T LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU DO. SEE THAT GUY UNDER THE TREE THERE?



SINCE WHEN AM I A WOLF-MAN, HUH?

SILVER BULLETS HURT PLENTY, MY BOY!



...AND I'LL BET THEY'VE BEEN TAILING YOU AS WELL.

TAKE MORE THAN A 9MM TO STOP ME.

ANYWAY, THEY'VE OBVIOUSLY GOT ME MARKED...

OH, YEAH, YEAH...



YEAH, FOR SOME SWAT UNIT DEALING WITH SPECIAL CRIMES, REPORTING DIRECTLY TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR ATHENA.

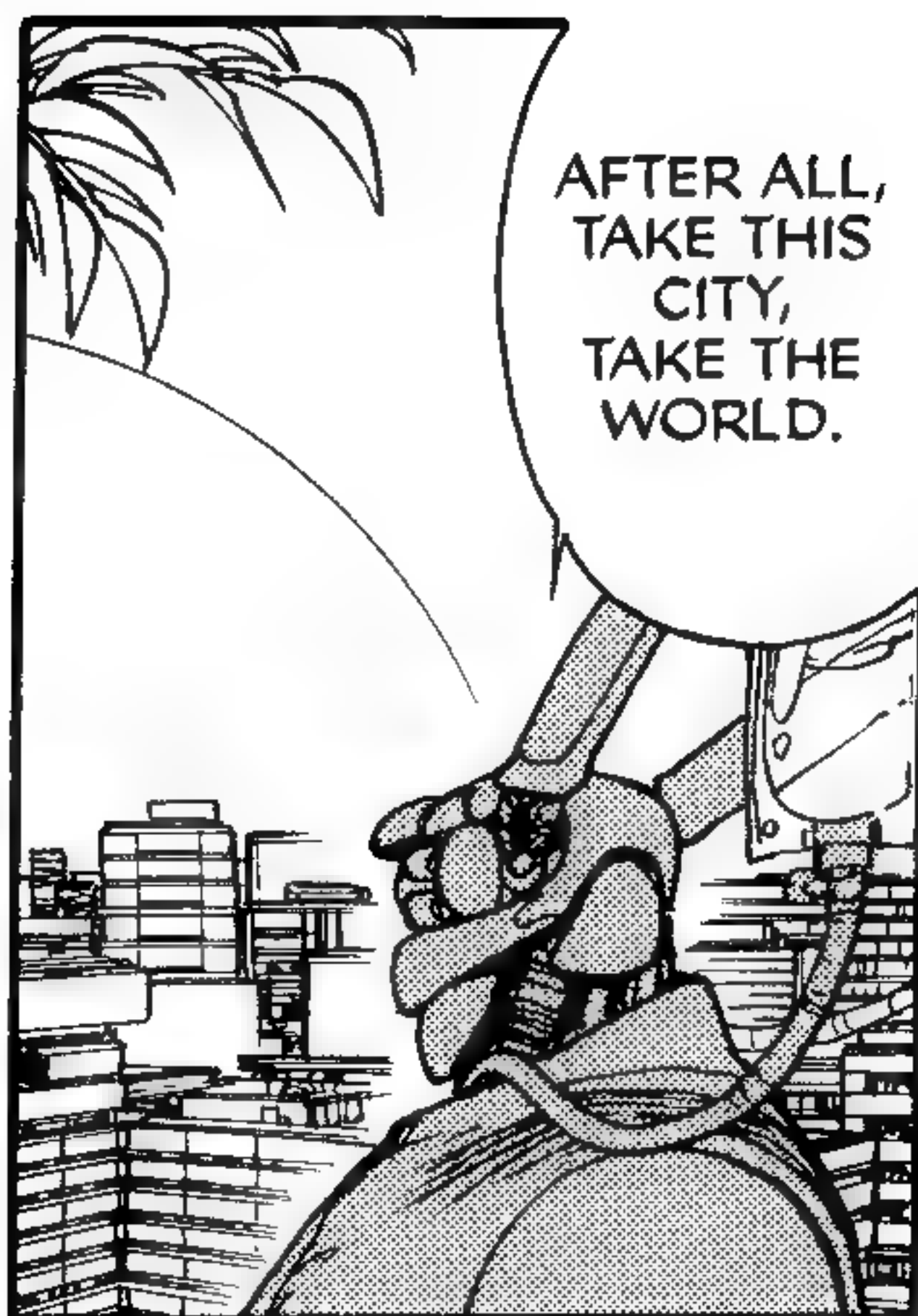
I'LL GET THE DETAILS WHEN I MEET THEM LATER TODAY.

WELL, HUH!



\*P7: from Heckler & Koch of West Germany. A gas-operated delayed-blowback 9MM pistol used for close combat and stealth operations.



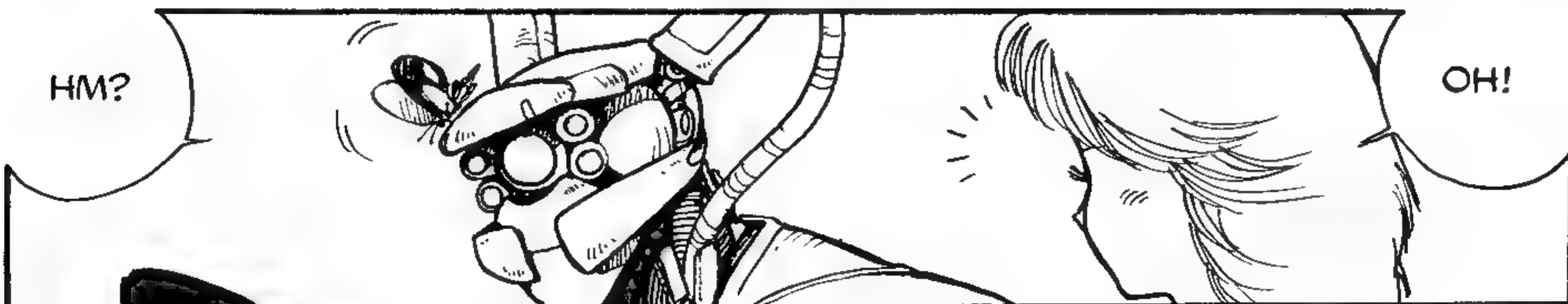
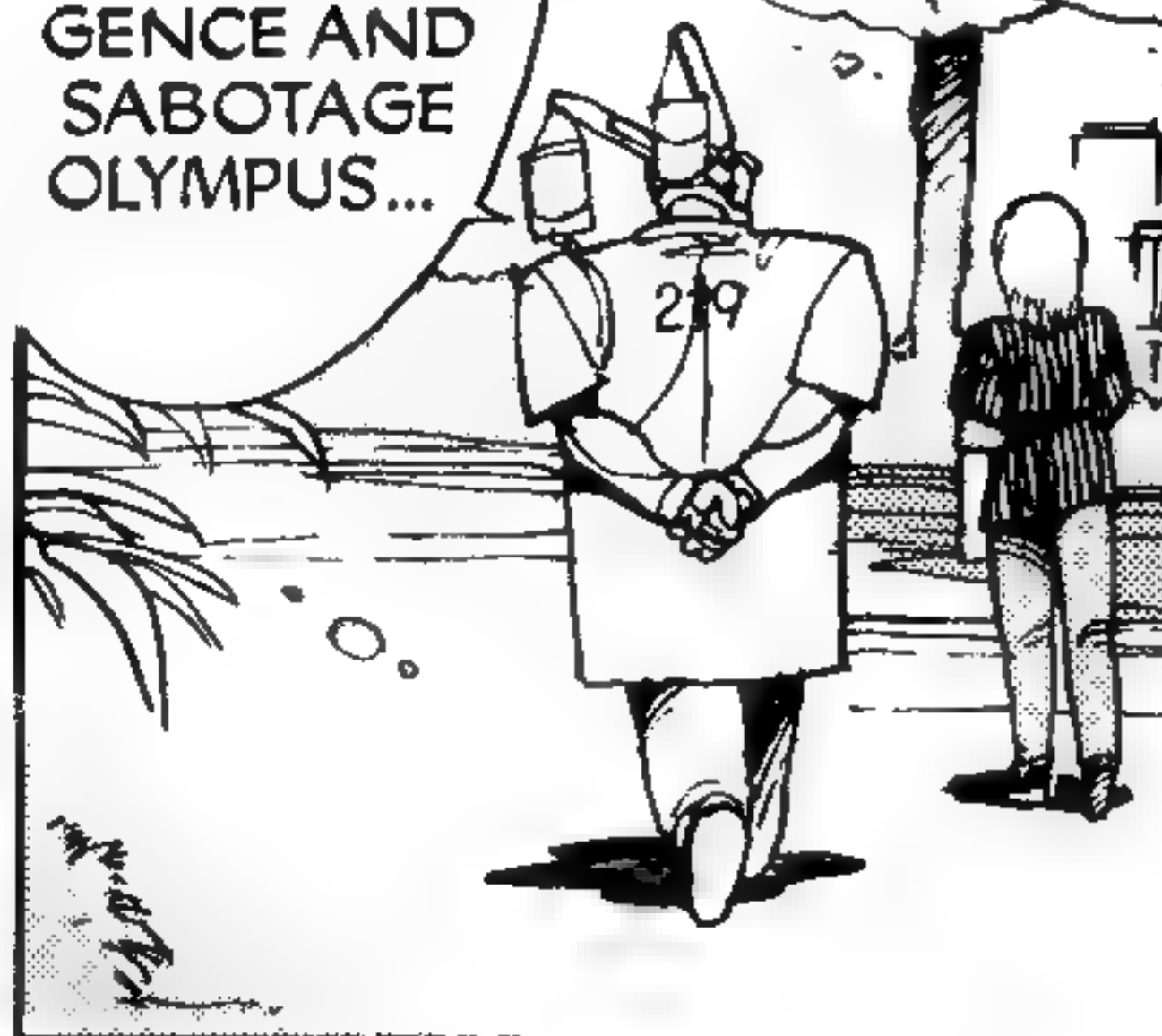


AFTER ALL,  
TAKE THIS  
CITY,  
TAKE THE  
WORLD.

SENT BY  
THE OLD  
COUNTRIES,  
REMEMBER?  
TO GATHER  
INTELLI-  
GENCE AND  
SABOTAGE  
OLYMPUS...

BUT A  
LOT OF THE  
IMMIGRANT  
CRIMINALS  
ARE DAMNED  
GOOD...

I'VE BEEN  
CHECKING OUT  
THE HUMANS  
HERE... MOST OF  
THEM JUST SEEM  
TO BE NORMAL  
REFUGEES. EVEN  
THAT CROWD  
HITOMI'S BROUGHT  
IN HAS ONLY A  
COUPLE REAL  
HARD  
CASES.

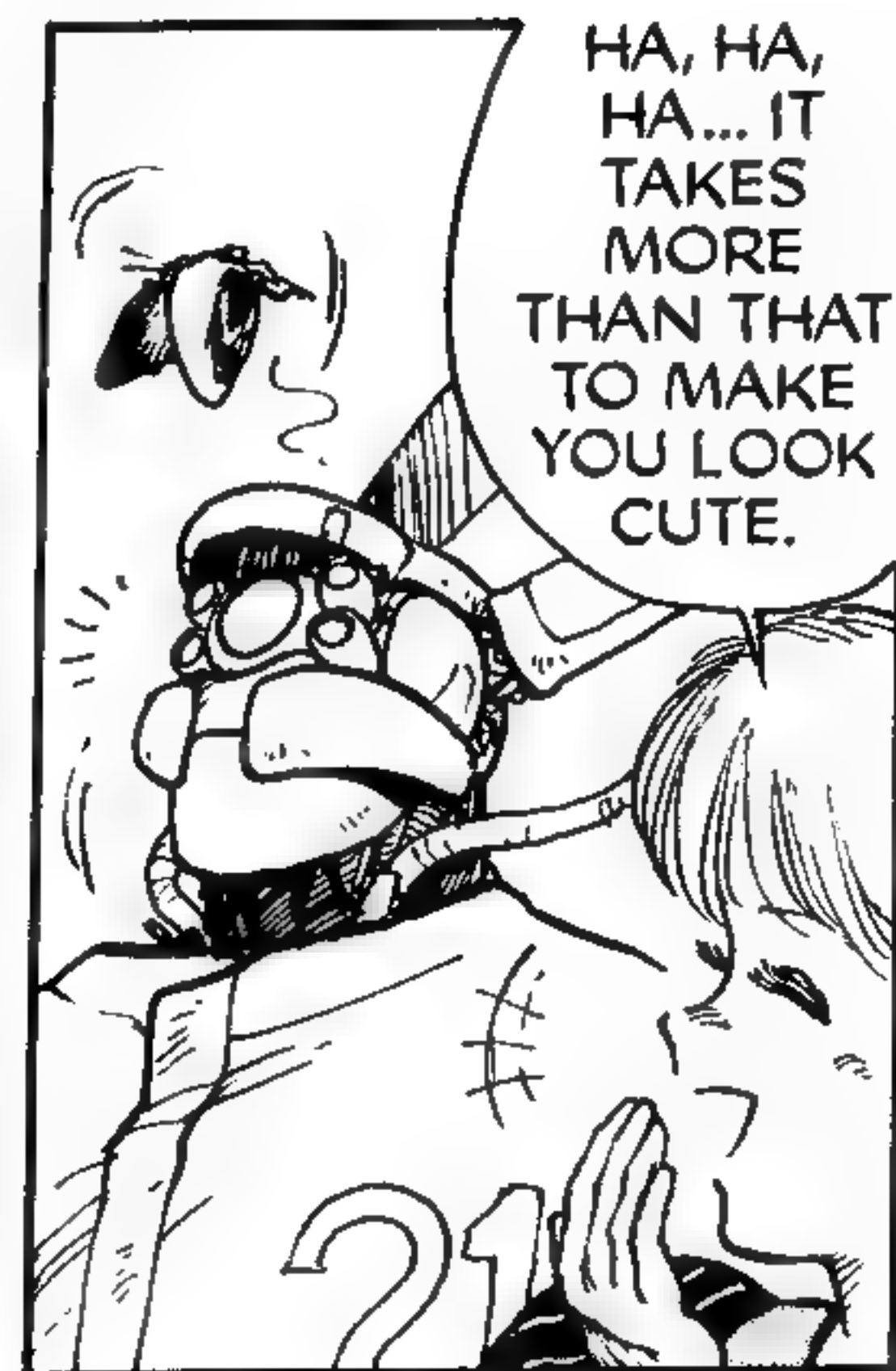


HM?

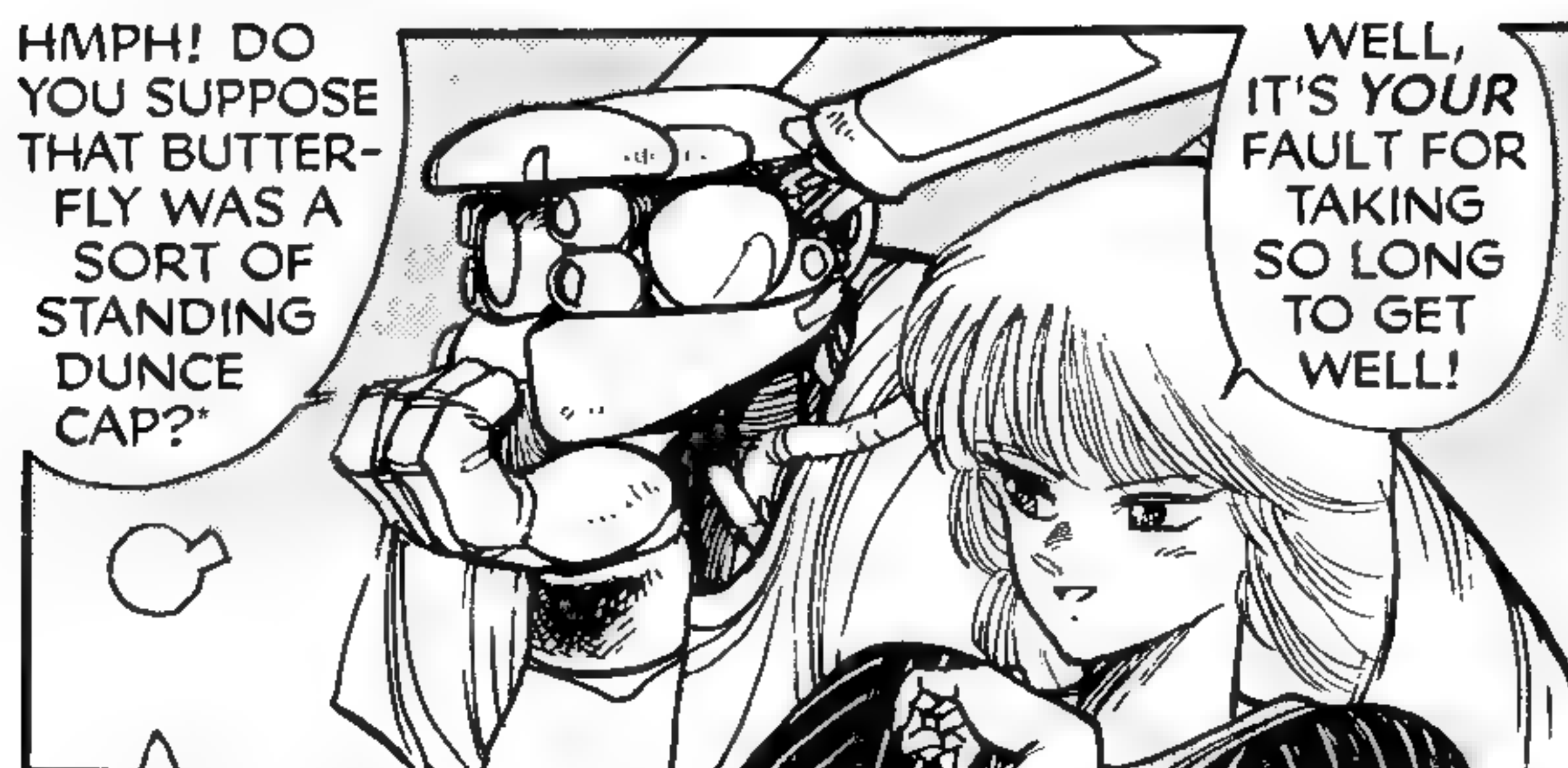
OH!



HA,  
HA!



HA, HA,  
HA... IT  
TAKES  
MORE  
THAN THAT  
TO MAKE  
YOU LOOK  
CUTE.



HMPH! DO  
YOU SUPPOSE  
THAT BUTTER-  
FLY WAS A  
SORT OF  
STANDING  
DUNCE  
CAP?\*

WELL,  
IT'S YOUR  
FAULT FOR  
TAKING  
SO LONG  
TO GET  
WELL!



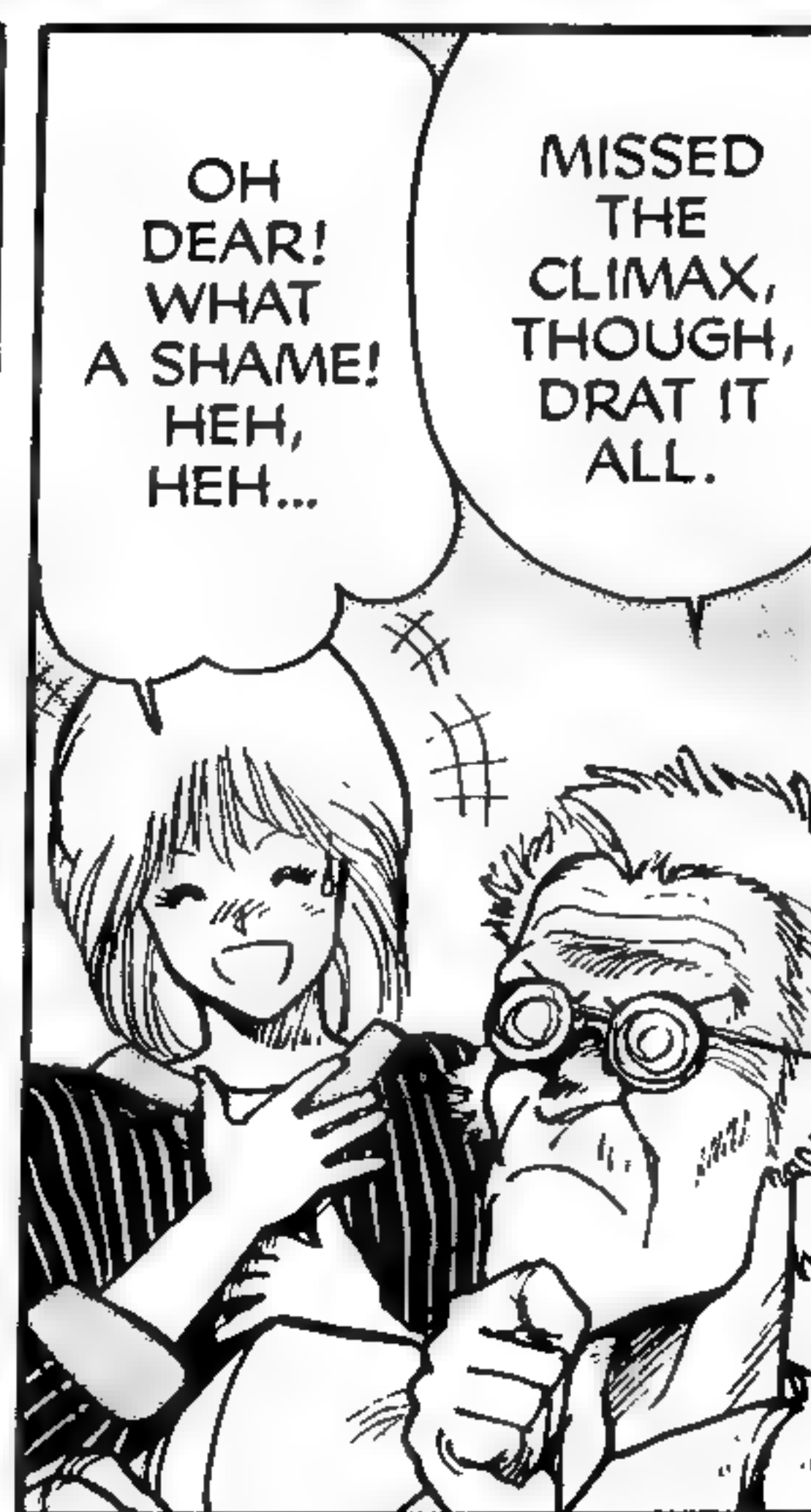
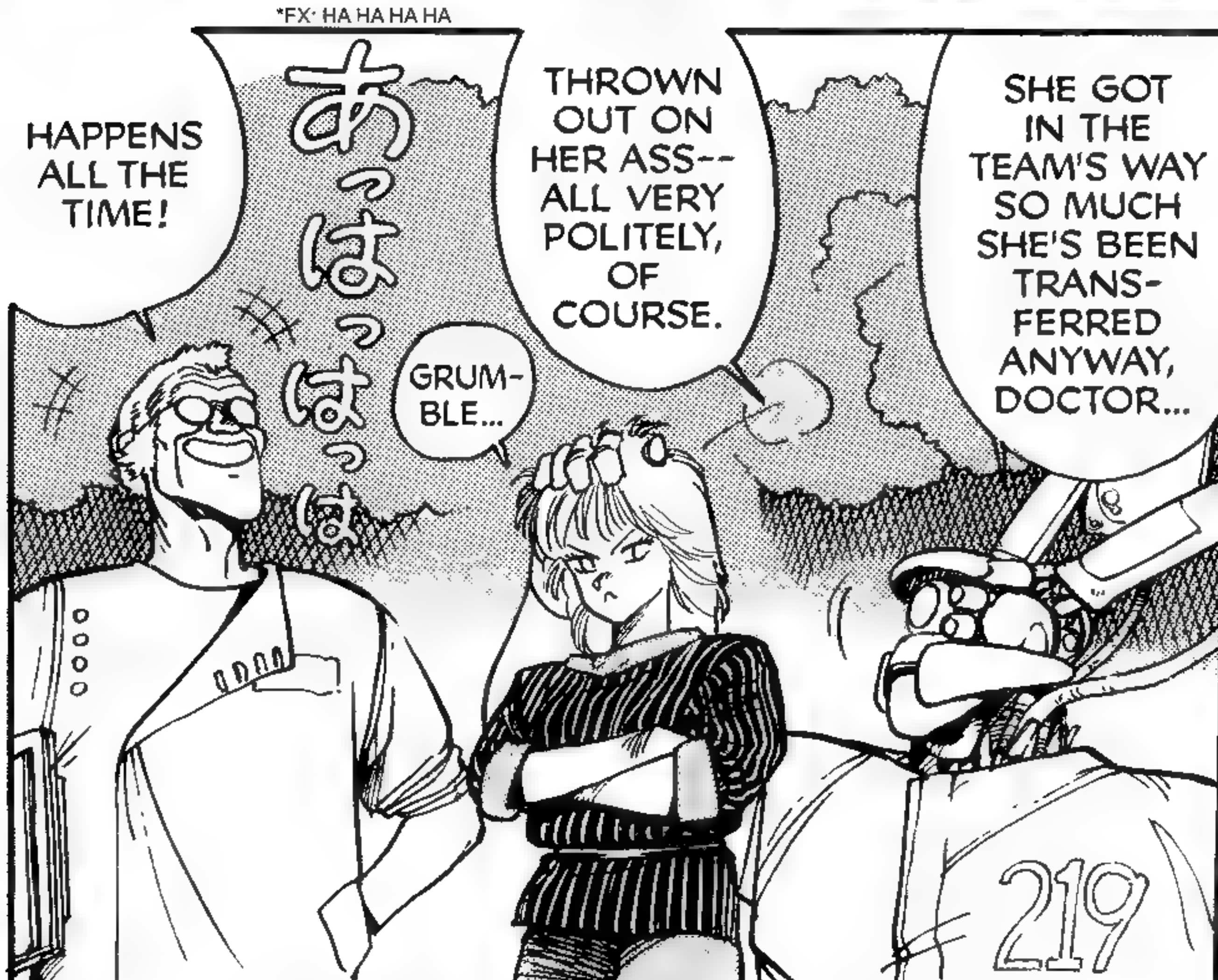
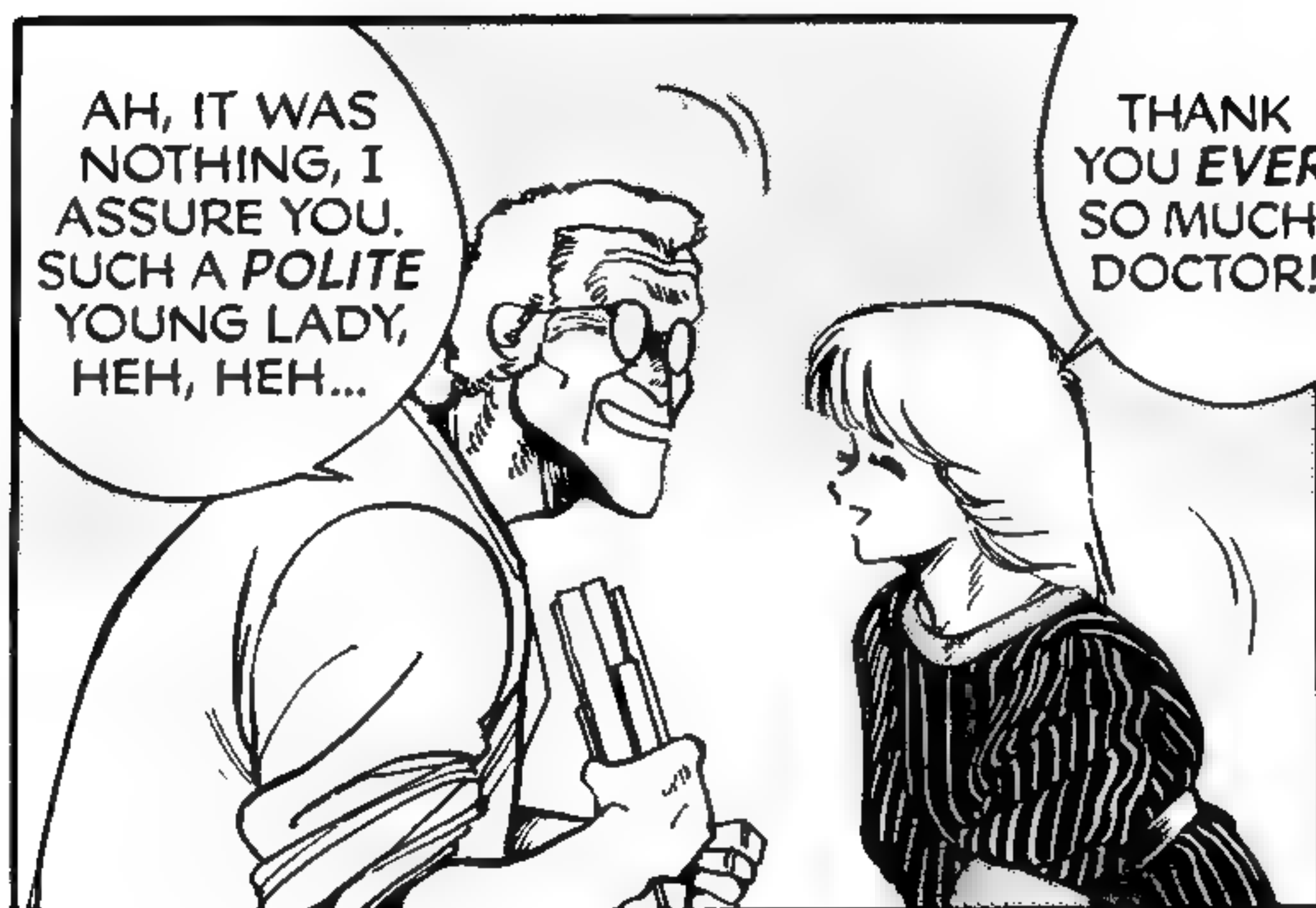
ALL THOSE  
DAMN  
FLOWERS  
YOU'VE  
BROUGHT  
ME...!

MUST BE  
POLLEN  
FROM THAT  
DAISY YOU  
DROPPED  
ON MY  
PILLOW.



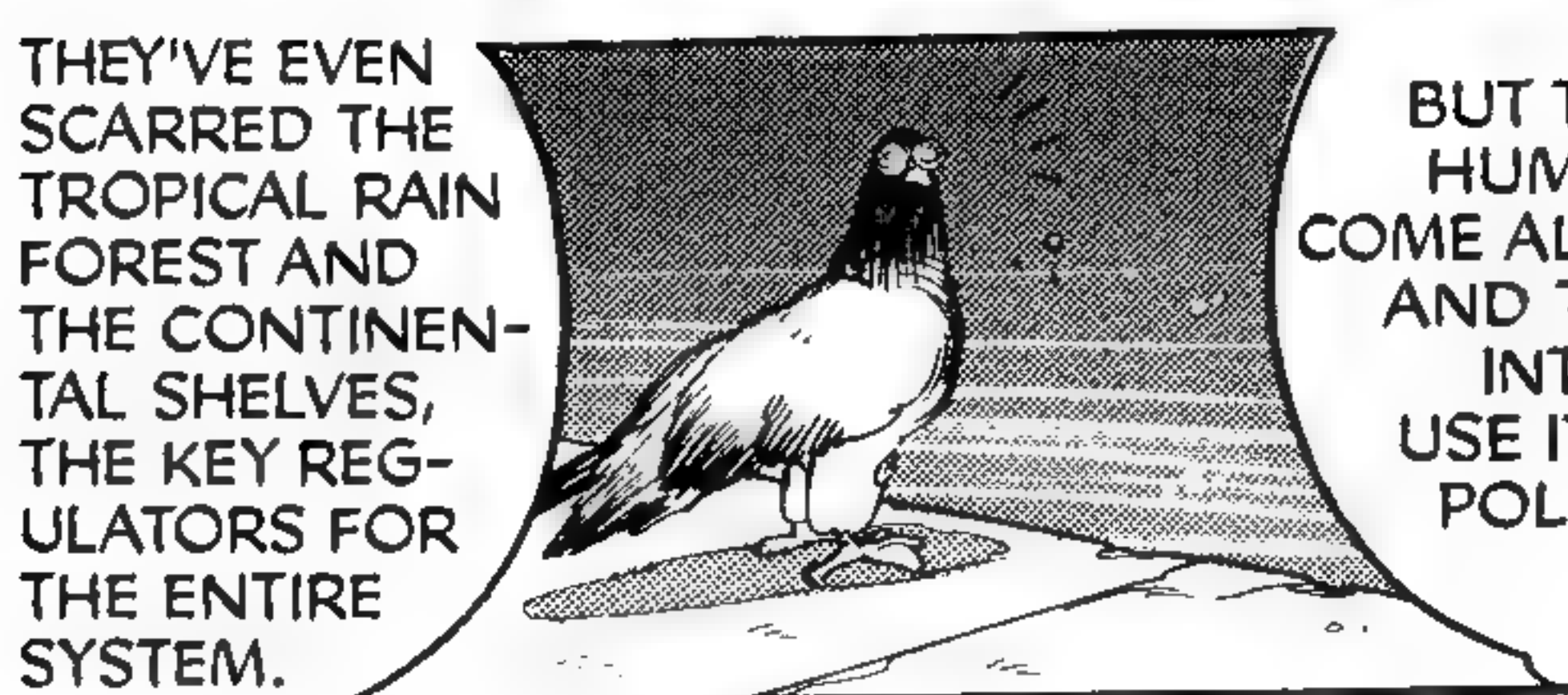
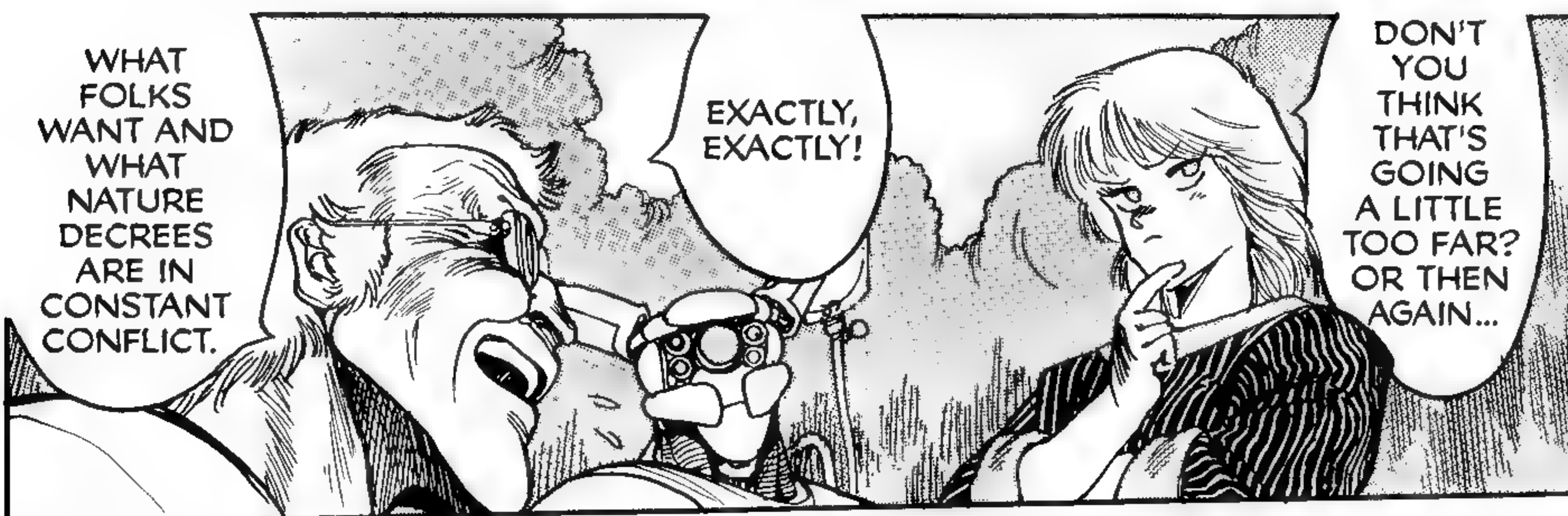
\*dunce cap: a paper hat placed on the head of a slow or lazy pupil.





AA: Assembly Area. Sometimes called the "staging area." The location where the SWAT team assembles to pick up weapons and get their instructions.





BUT THEN  
HUMANS  
COME ALONG  
AND TEAR  
INTO IT!  
USE IT UP!  
POLLUTE  
IT!

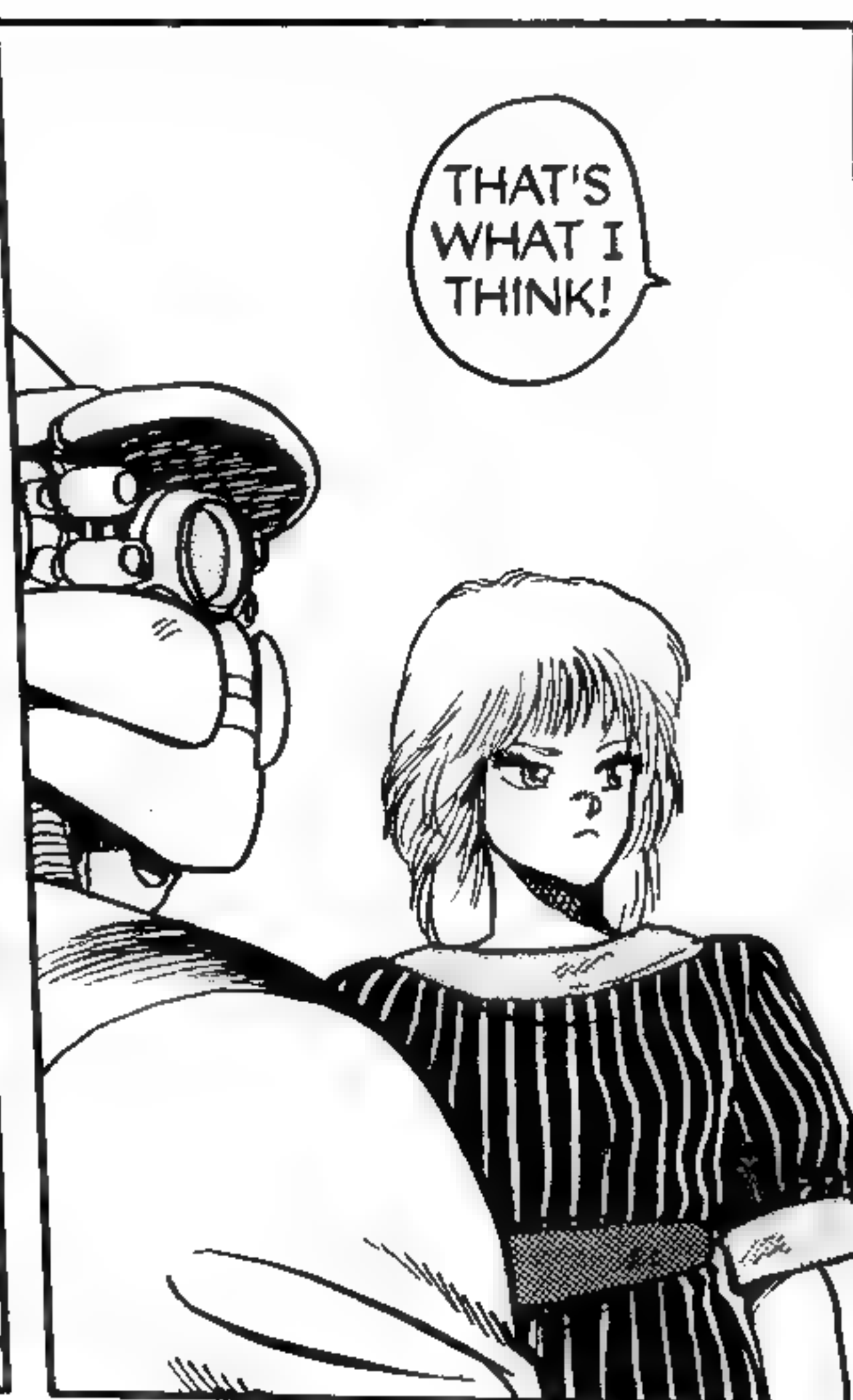


\*FX C000





AND IT'S ALL EXPLAINED IN THIS FASCINATING BOOK OF MINE! WON'T YOU BUY A COPY OR TWO?



THAT'S WHAT I THINK!



WE CAN SEARCH FOR SOME KIND OF "NATURE" THAT'S MORE HOSPITABLE FOR HUMANS...

OF COURSE, IF WE GO INTO SPACE, WE'LL ALL LAST LONGER. MORE ROOM UP THERE!



AND HUMANS HAVE BEEN PUTTERING AROUND EVER SINCE...

YES, YES... THEY FLEW OFF, LEAVING THEIR DISCARDS BEHIND...

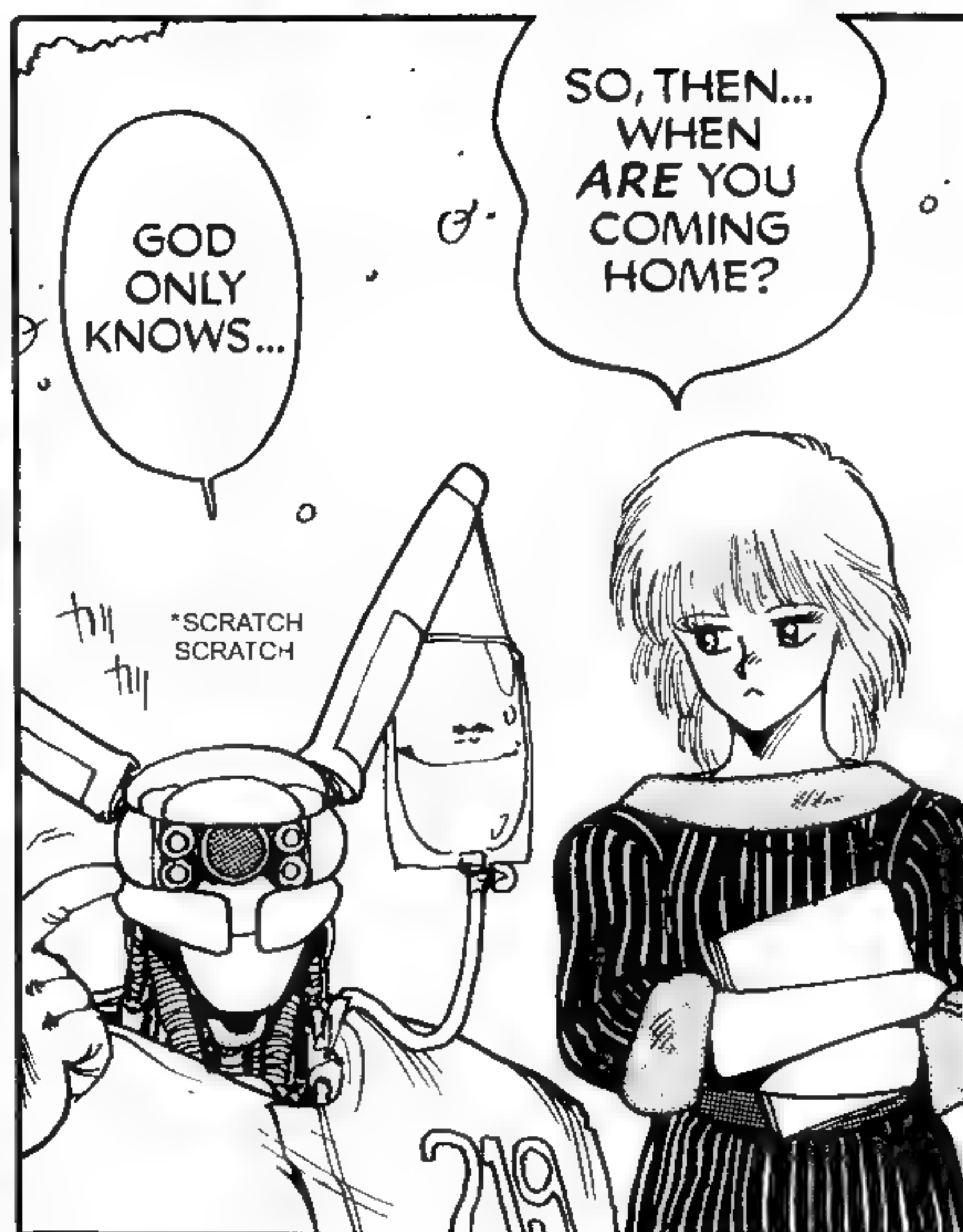
HMM... YES...

COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE HUMANS ARE JUST BIOROIDS USED BY THE ANCIENT ASTRO-NAUTS...



MY WALLET'S GOTTEN LIGHTER!!

YOU'RE NOT LOSING ANY WEIGHT...



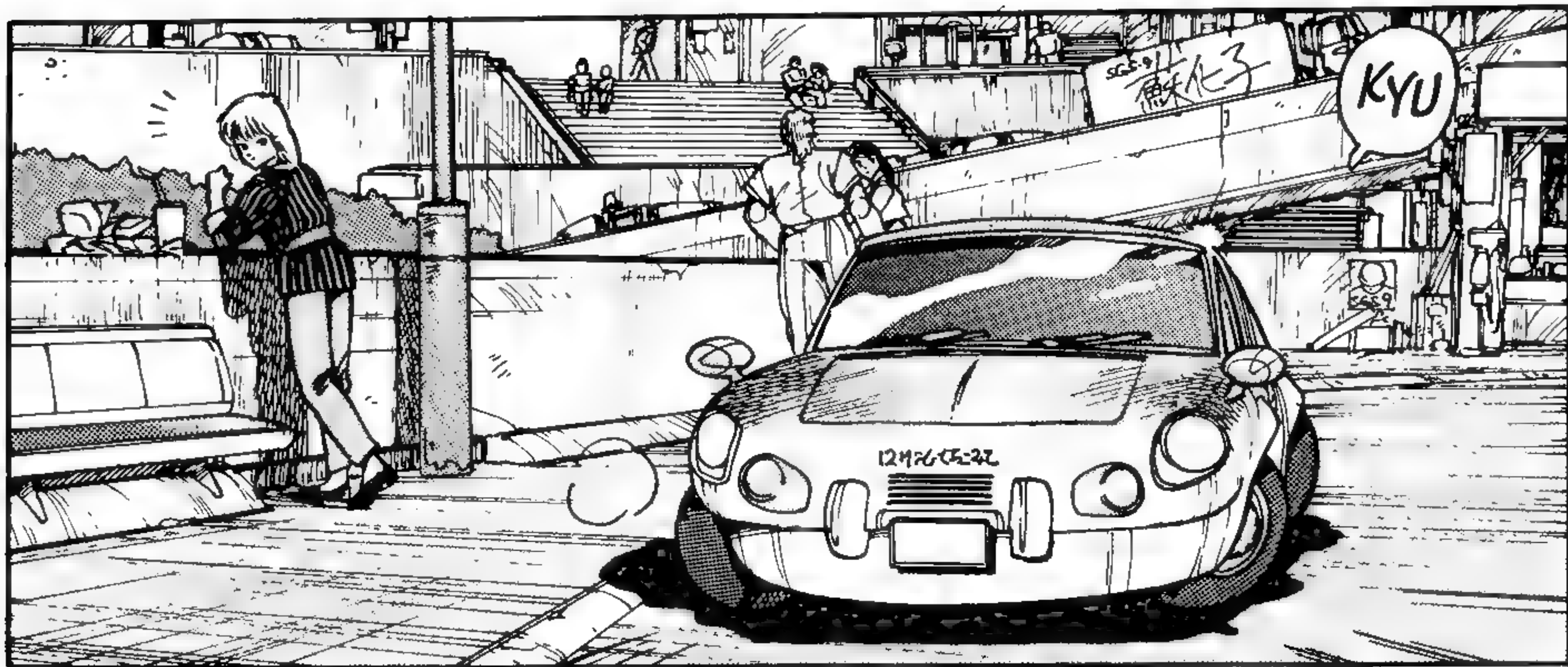
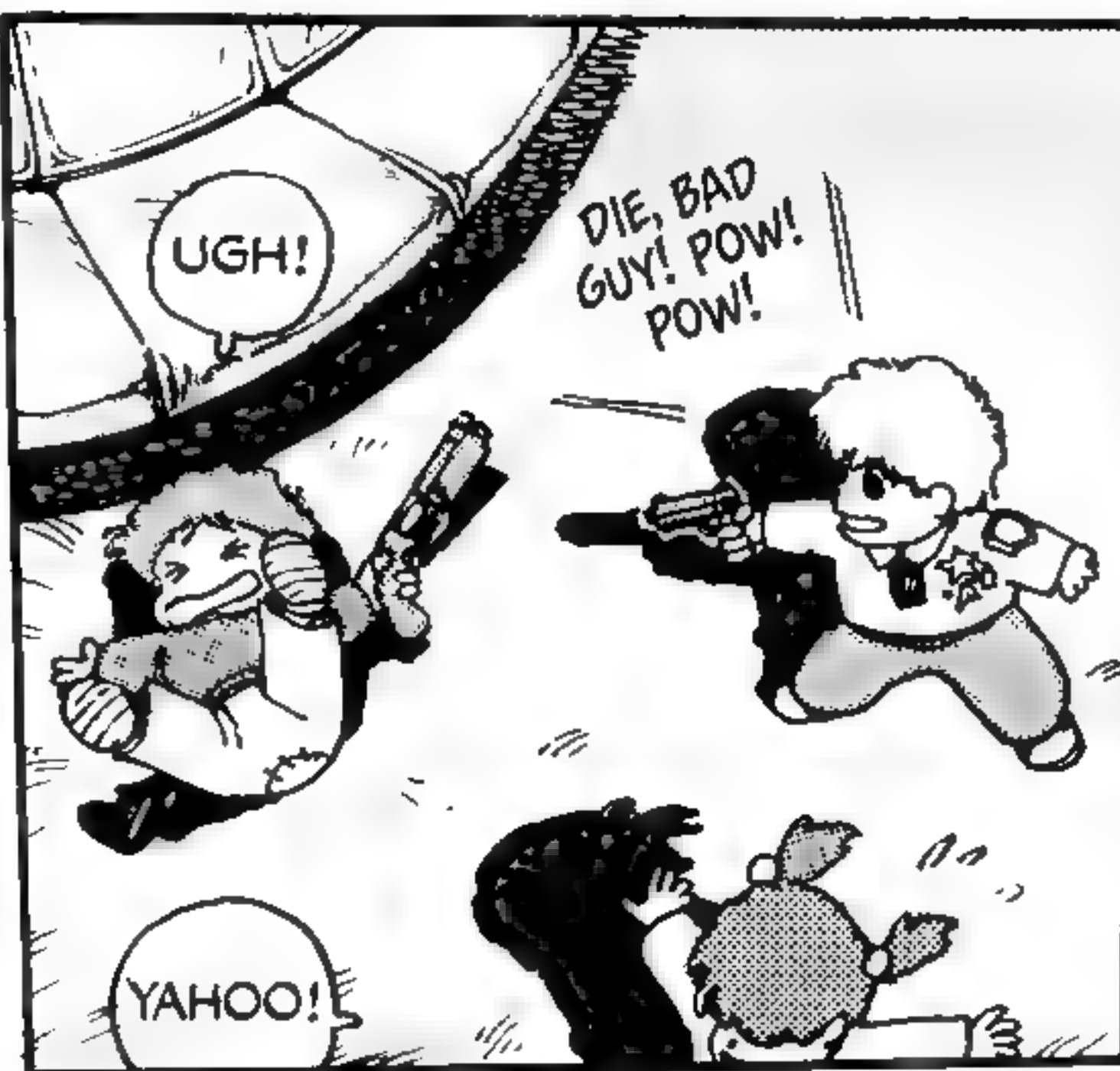
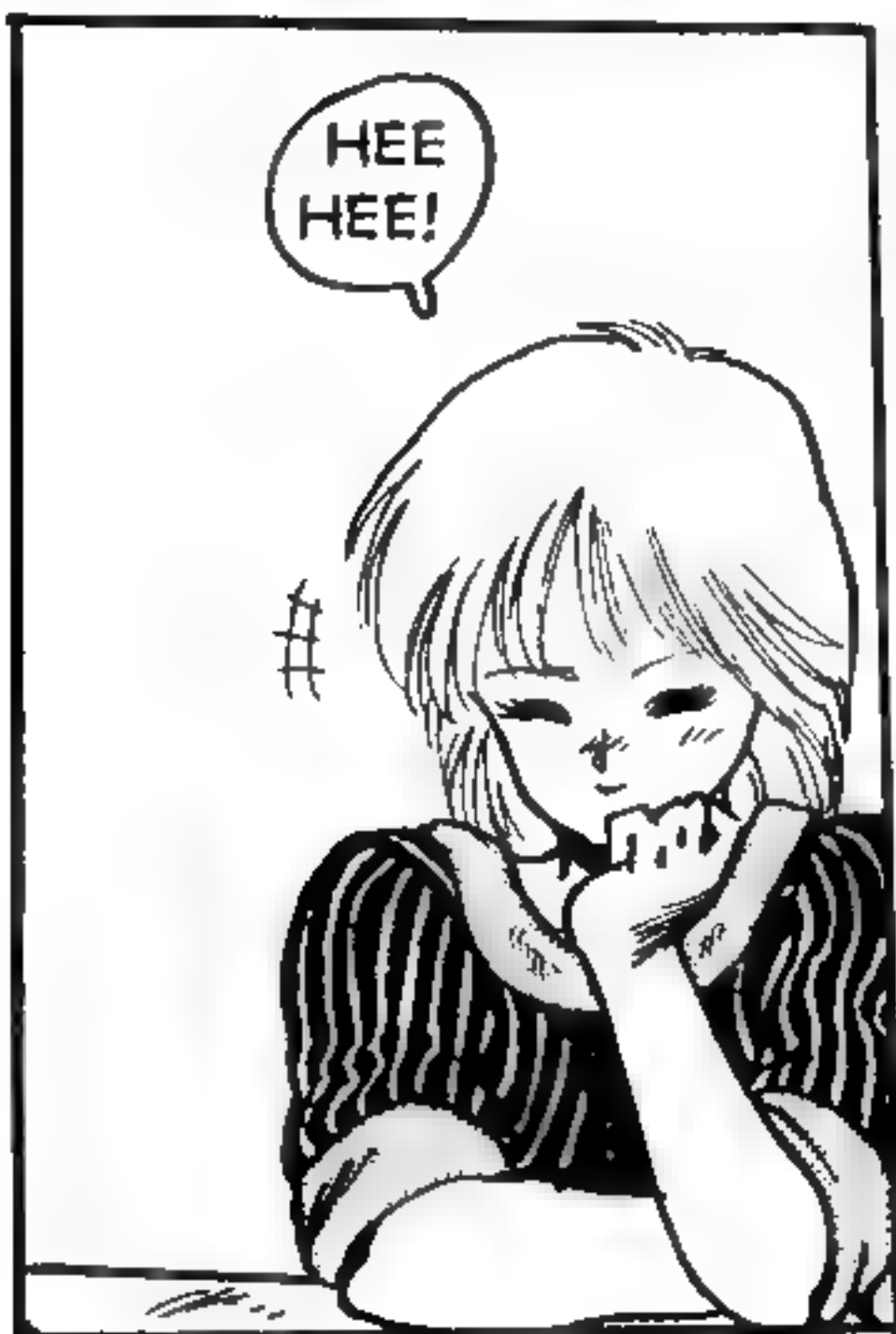
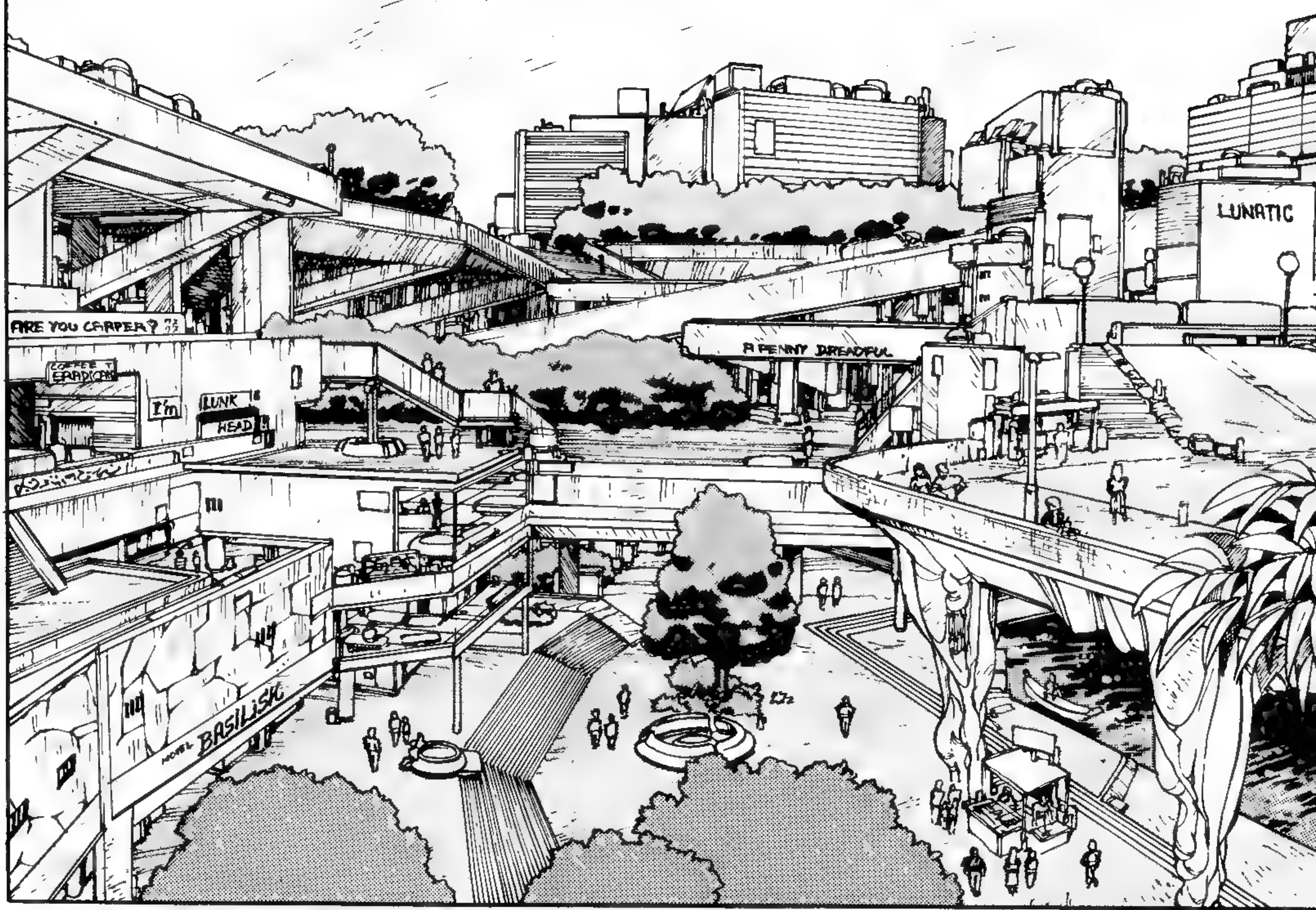
GOD ONLY KNOWS...

SO, THEN... WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME?

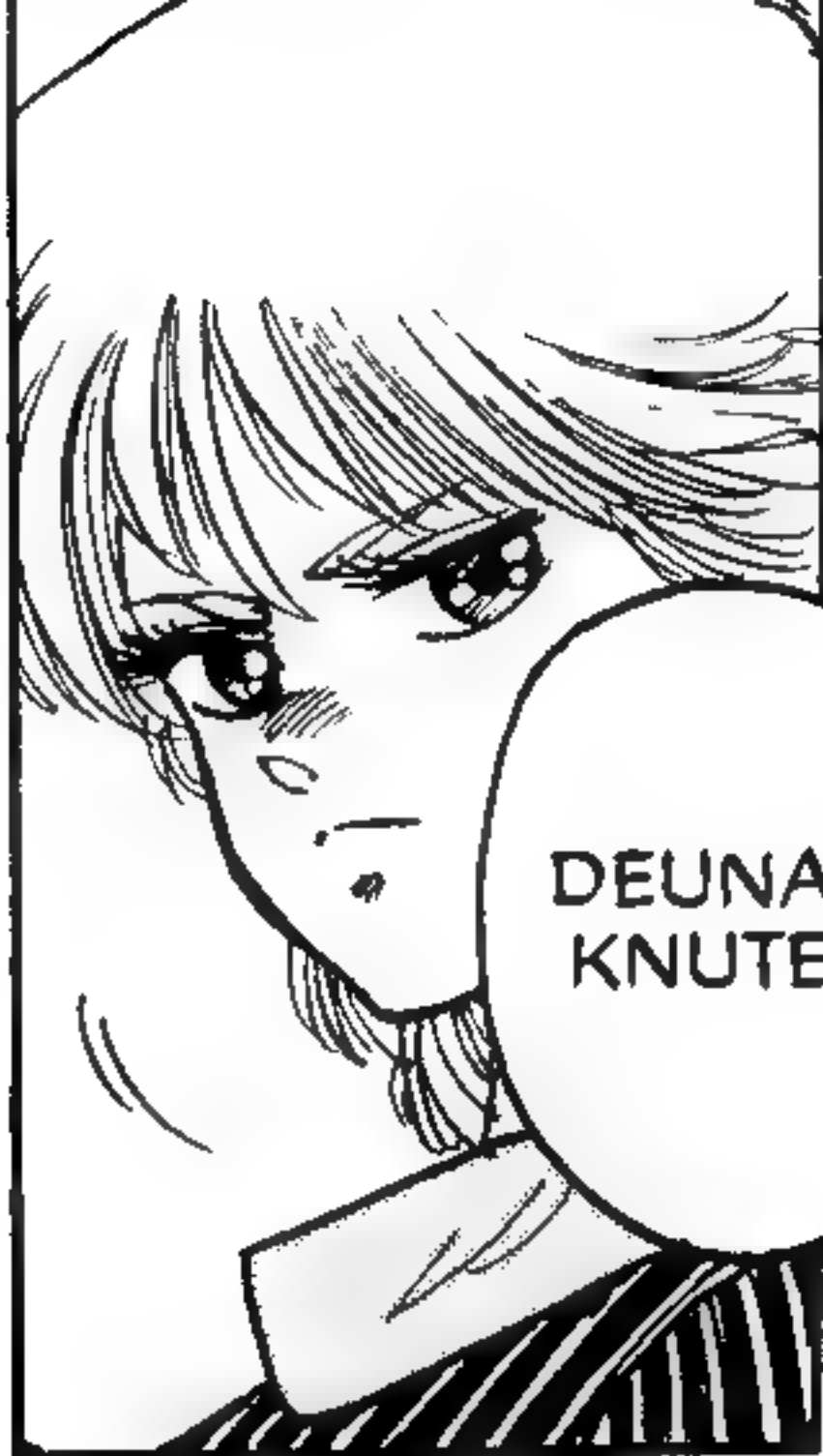
\*SCRATCH SCRATCH

\*FX DOH

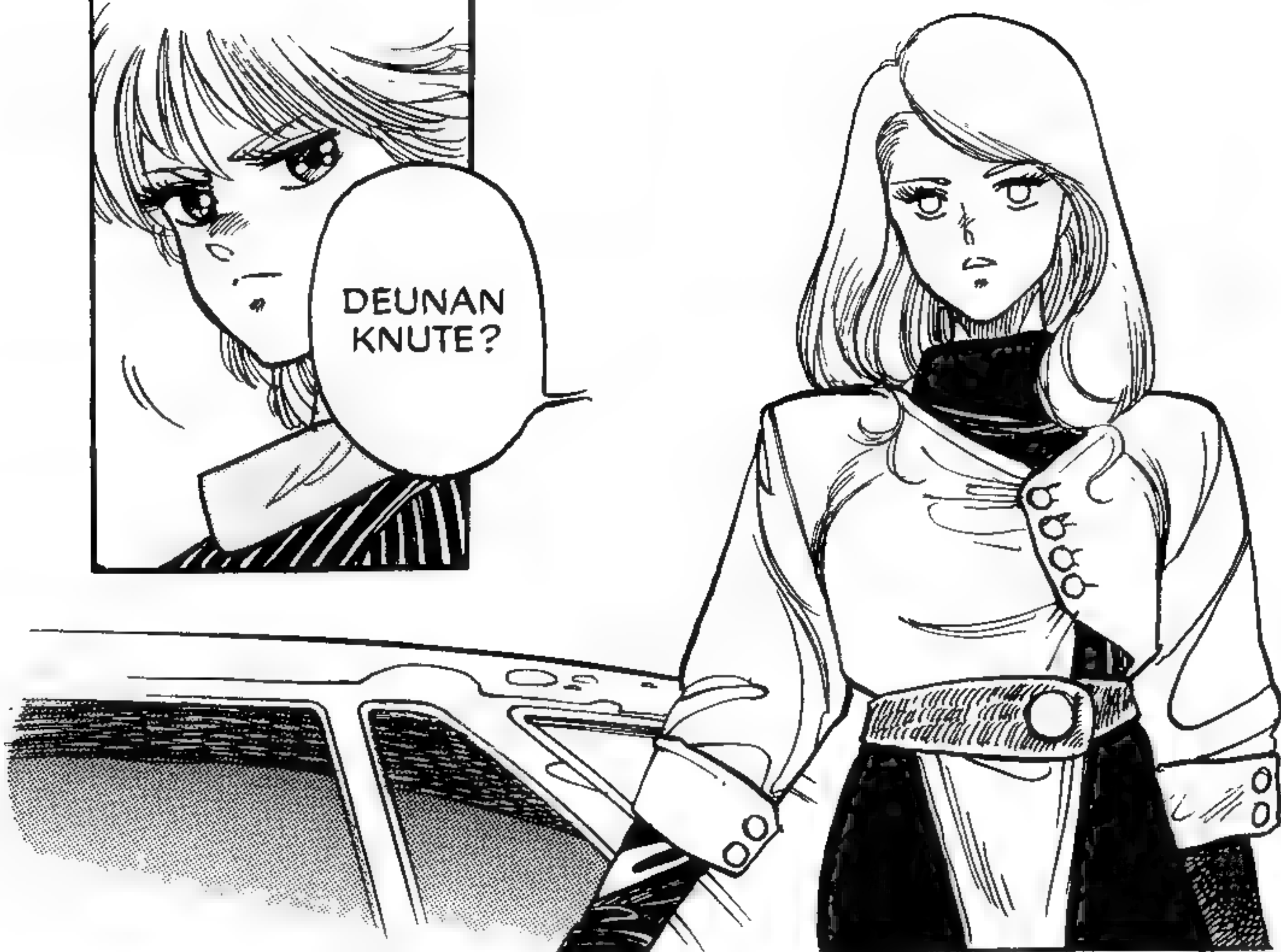




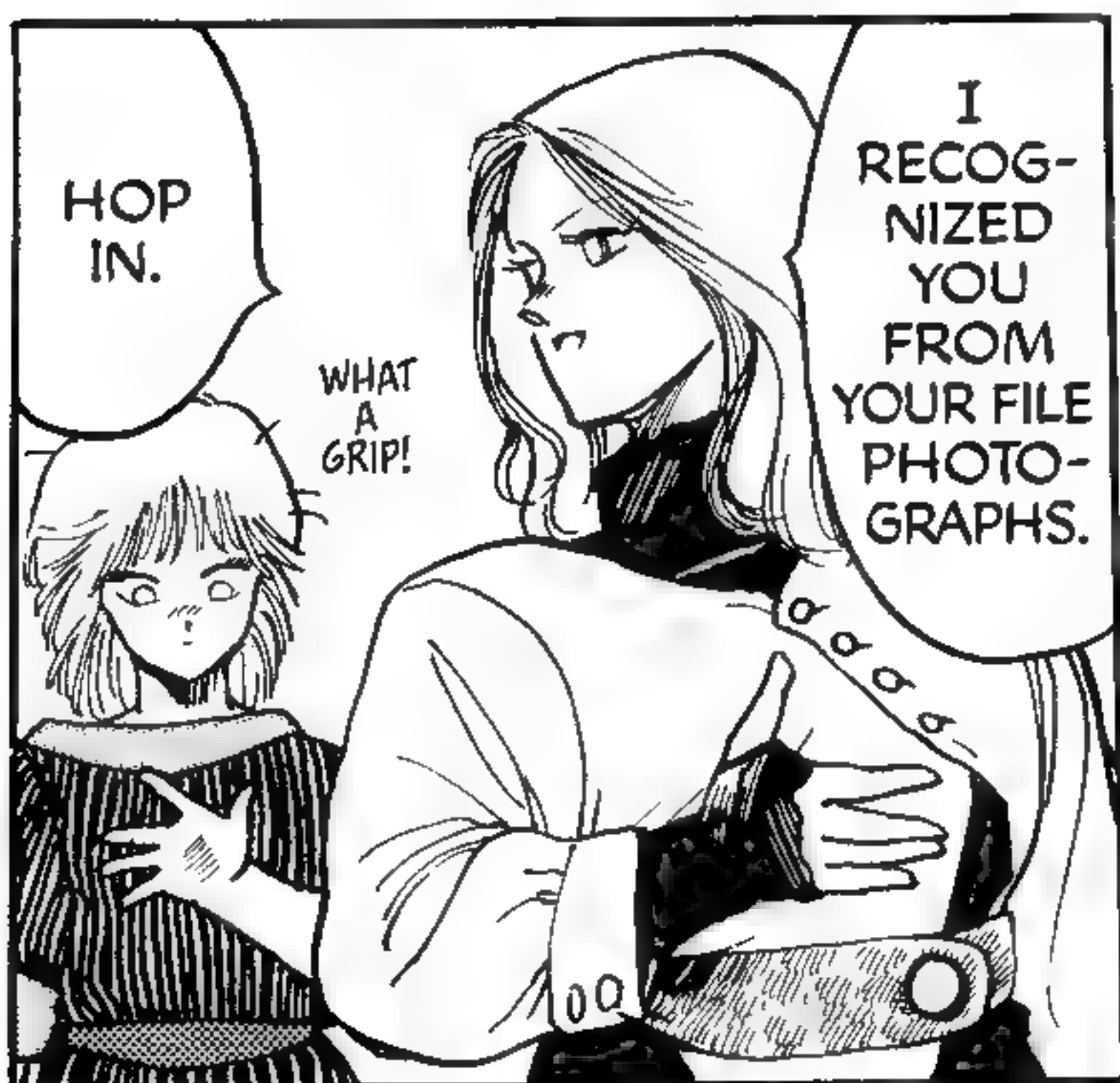




DEUNAN  
KNUTE?



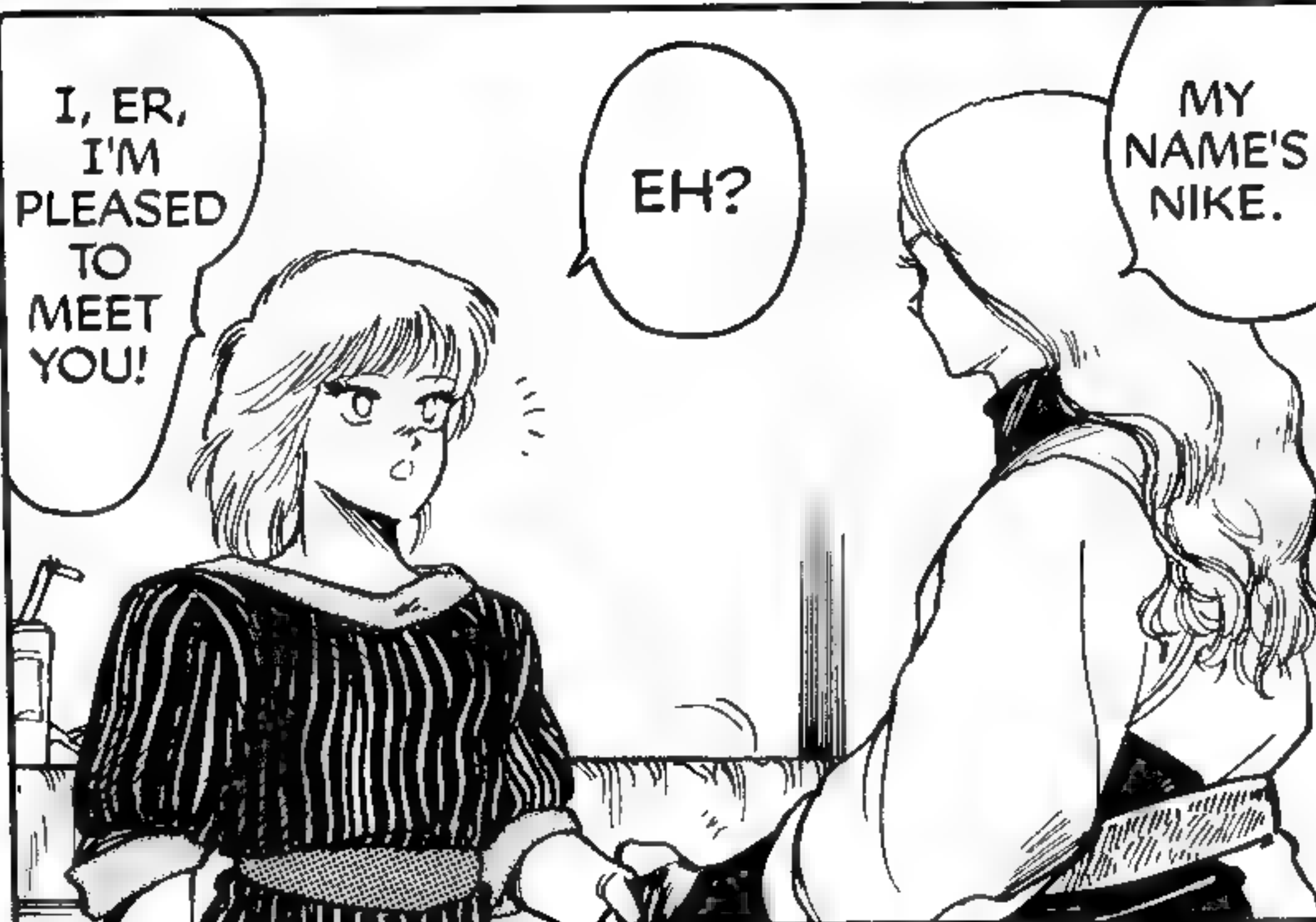
CHAK



HOP  
IN.

WHAT  
A GRIP!

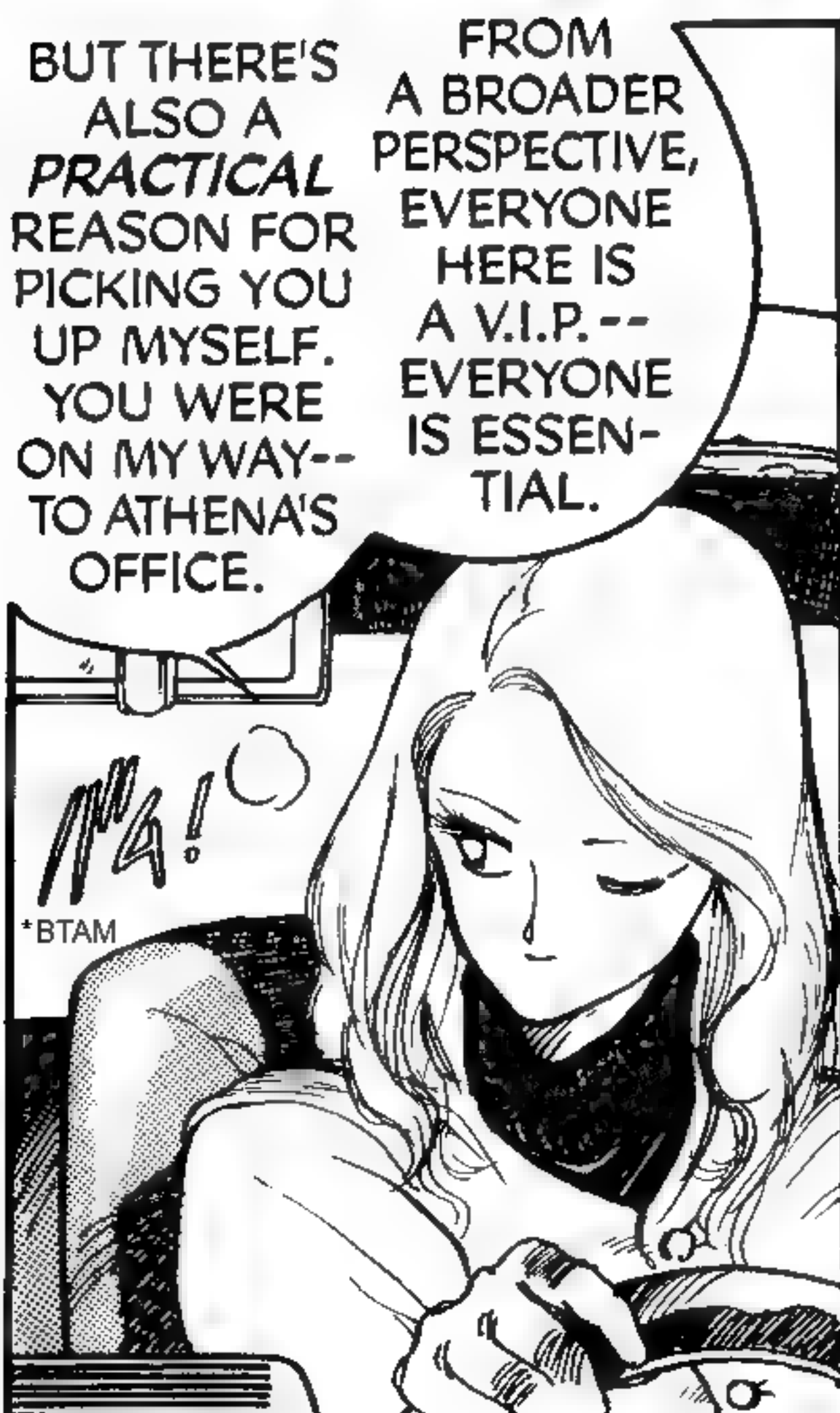
I RECOG-  
NIZED  
YOU FROM  
YOUR FILE PHOTO-  
GRAPHS.



I, ER,  
I'M PLEASED  
TO MEET  
YOU!

EH?

MY NAME'S  
NIKE.



BUT THERE'S  
ALSO A  
**PRACTICAL**  
REASON FOR  
PICKING YOU  
UP MYSELF.  
YOU WERE  
ON MY WAY--  
TO ATHENA'S  
OFFICE.

FROM  
A BROADER  
PERSPECTIVE,  
EVERYONE  
HERE IS  
A V.I.P.--  
EVERYONE  
IS ESSEN-  
TIAL.

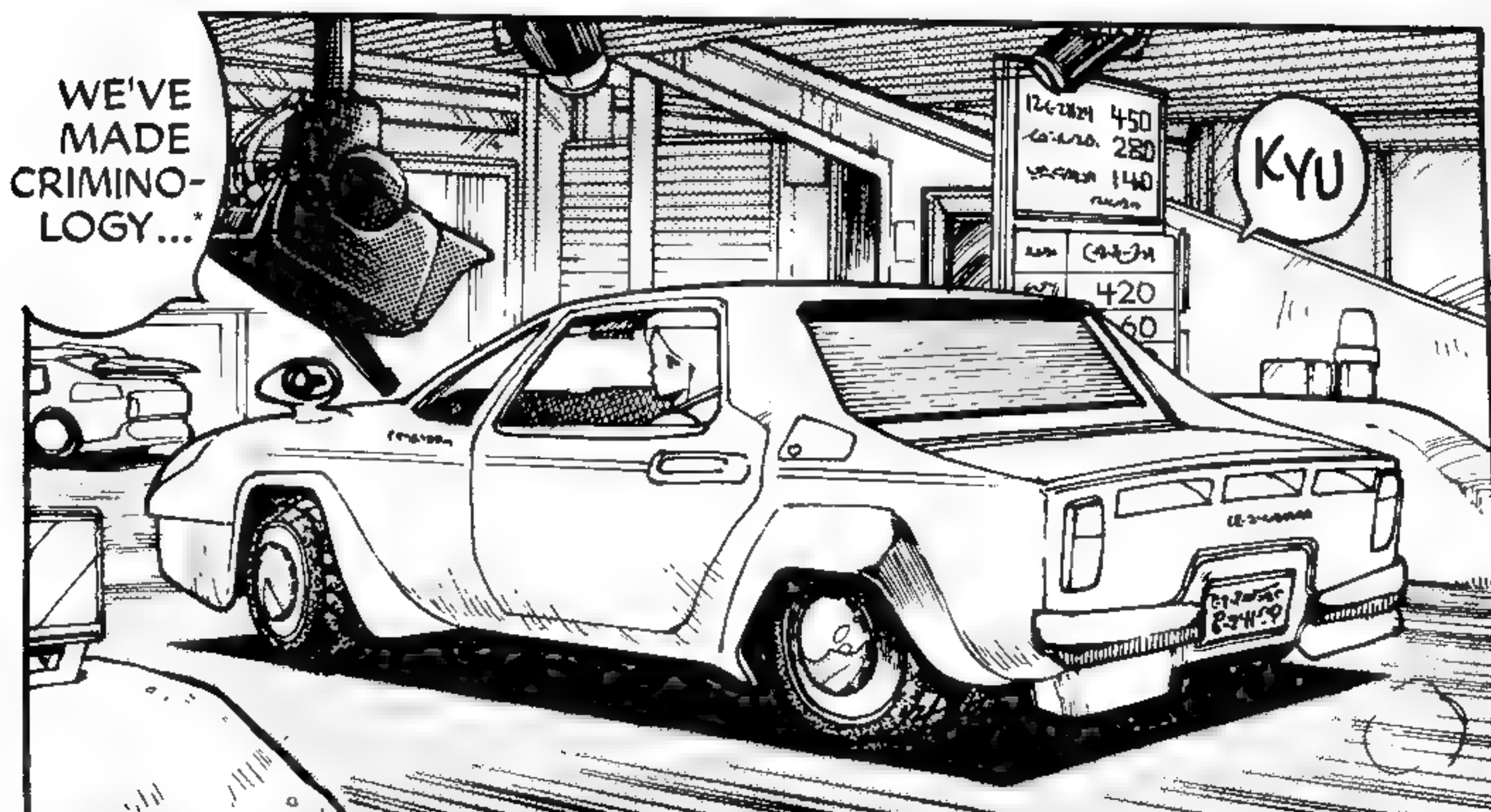
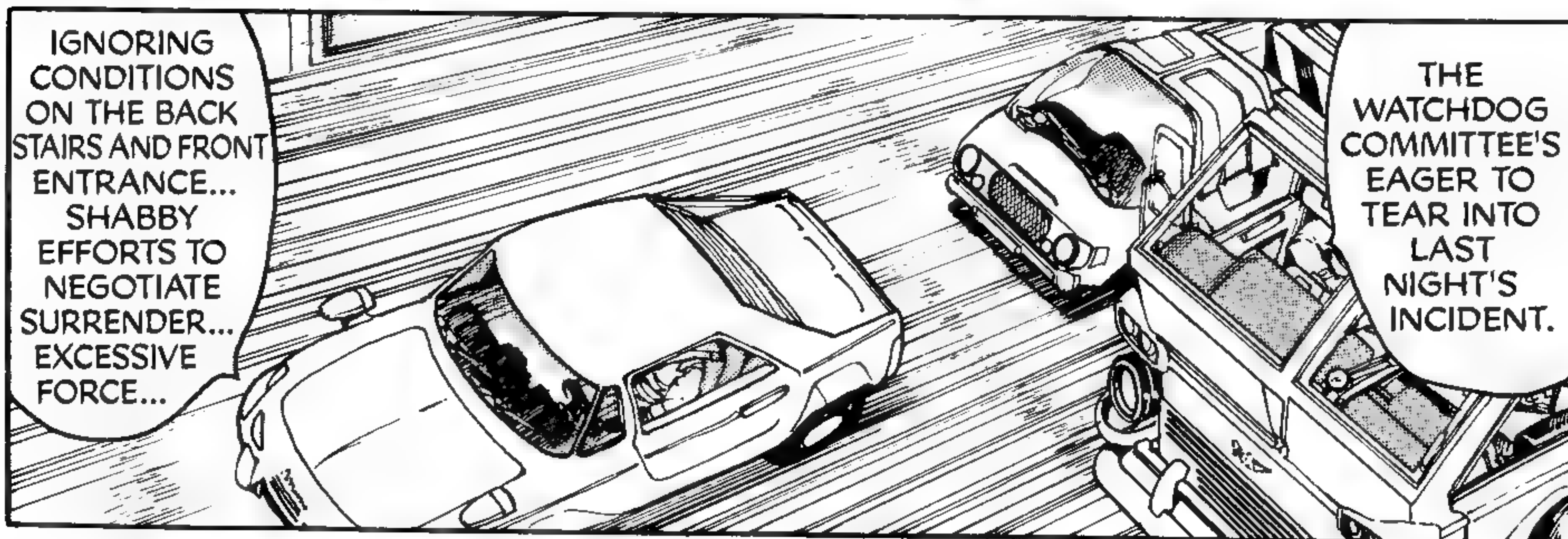
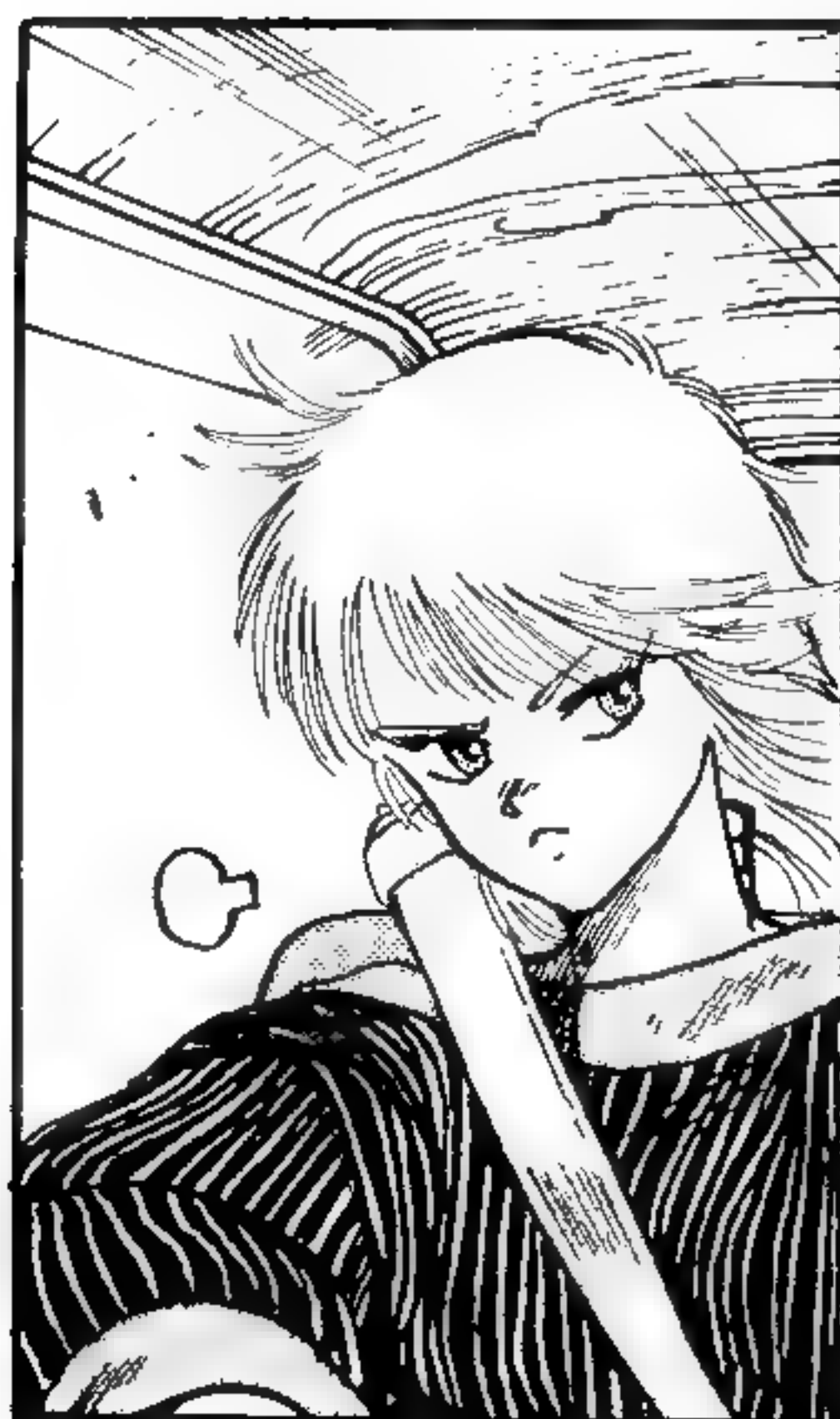


B-BUT  
WHERE'S THE  
SECRET  
SERVICE?  
ARE YOU  
HER  
**DOUBLE?!**

NIKE...?  
YOU  
MEAN  
**CHIEF OF  
STAFF  
NIKE?!**

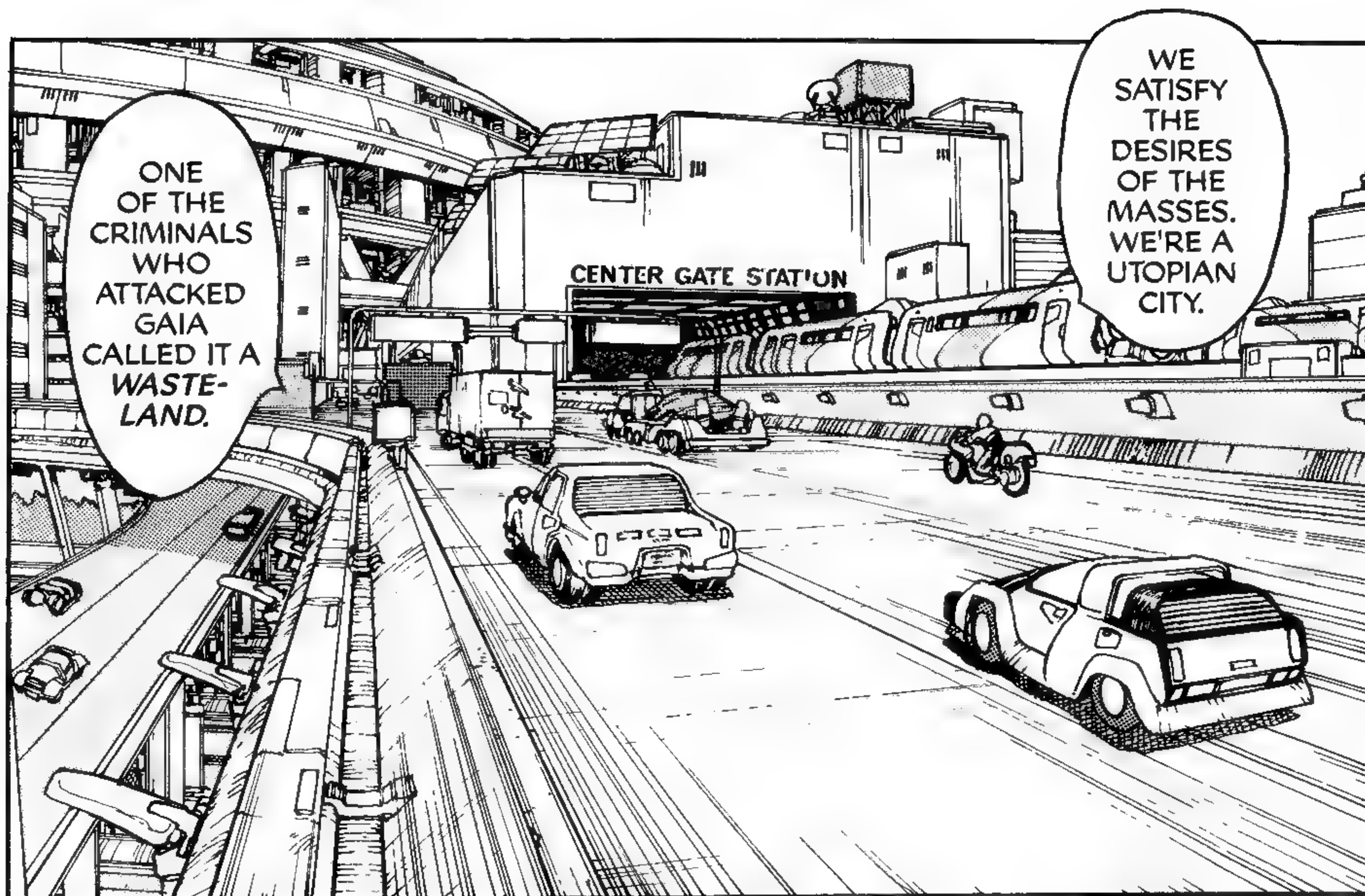
CHAK





\*criminology: the study of how intelligence, personality, way of life, environment, and such relate to the crimes of criminals.





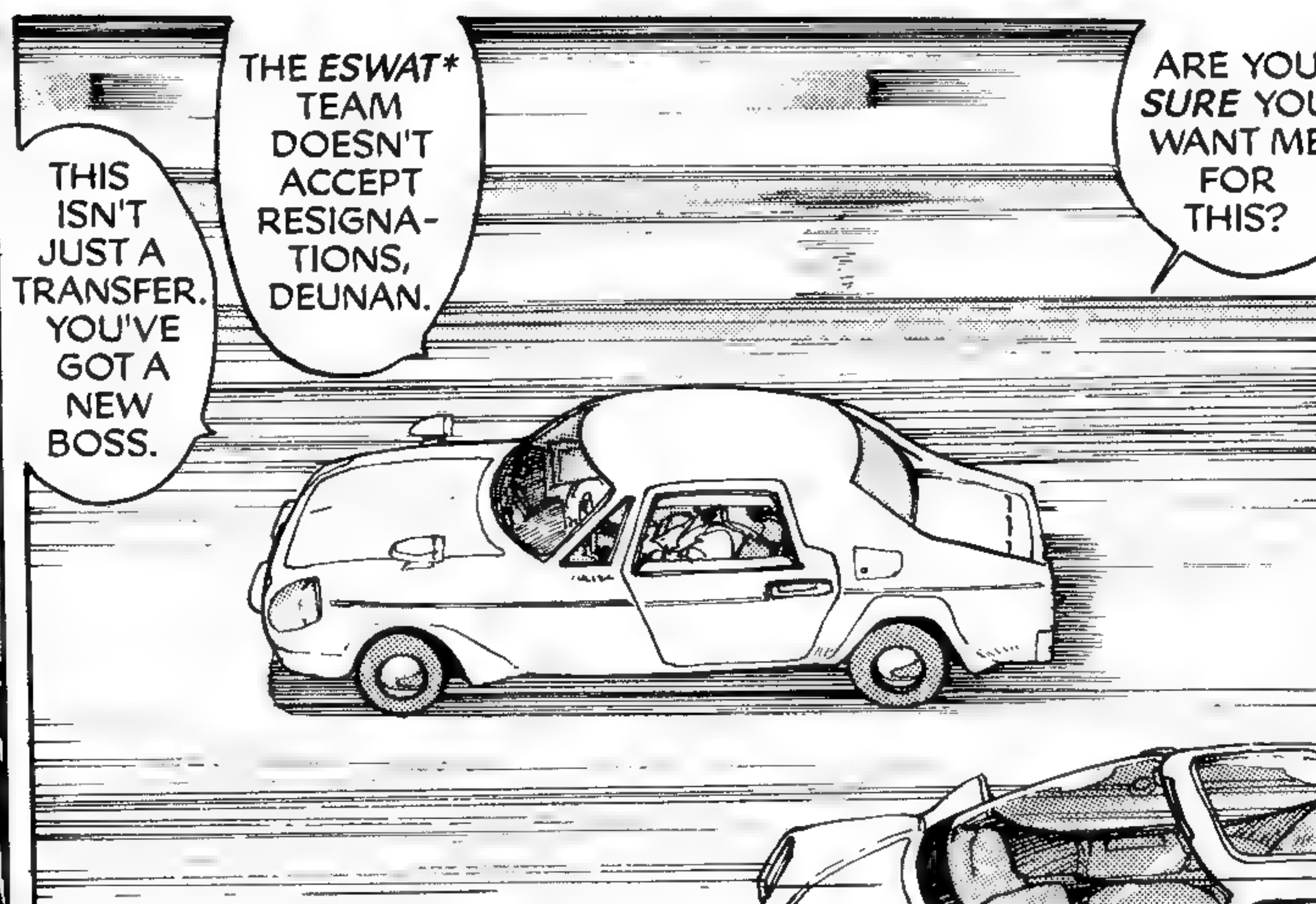
ONE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ATTACKED GAIA CALLED IT A WASTE-LAND.

WE SATISFY THE DESIRES OF THE MASSES. WE'RE A UTOPIAN CITY.



OR ARE YOU REALLY THAT PASSIVE...?

CAN SOMEONE SITTING ON THE SIDELINES UNDERSTAND THE GAME OF NATIONAL POLITICS? IS A TREE AN ACCURATE MODEL OF THE FOREST?



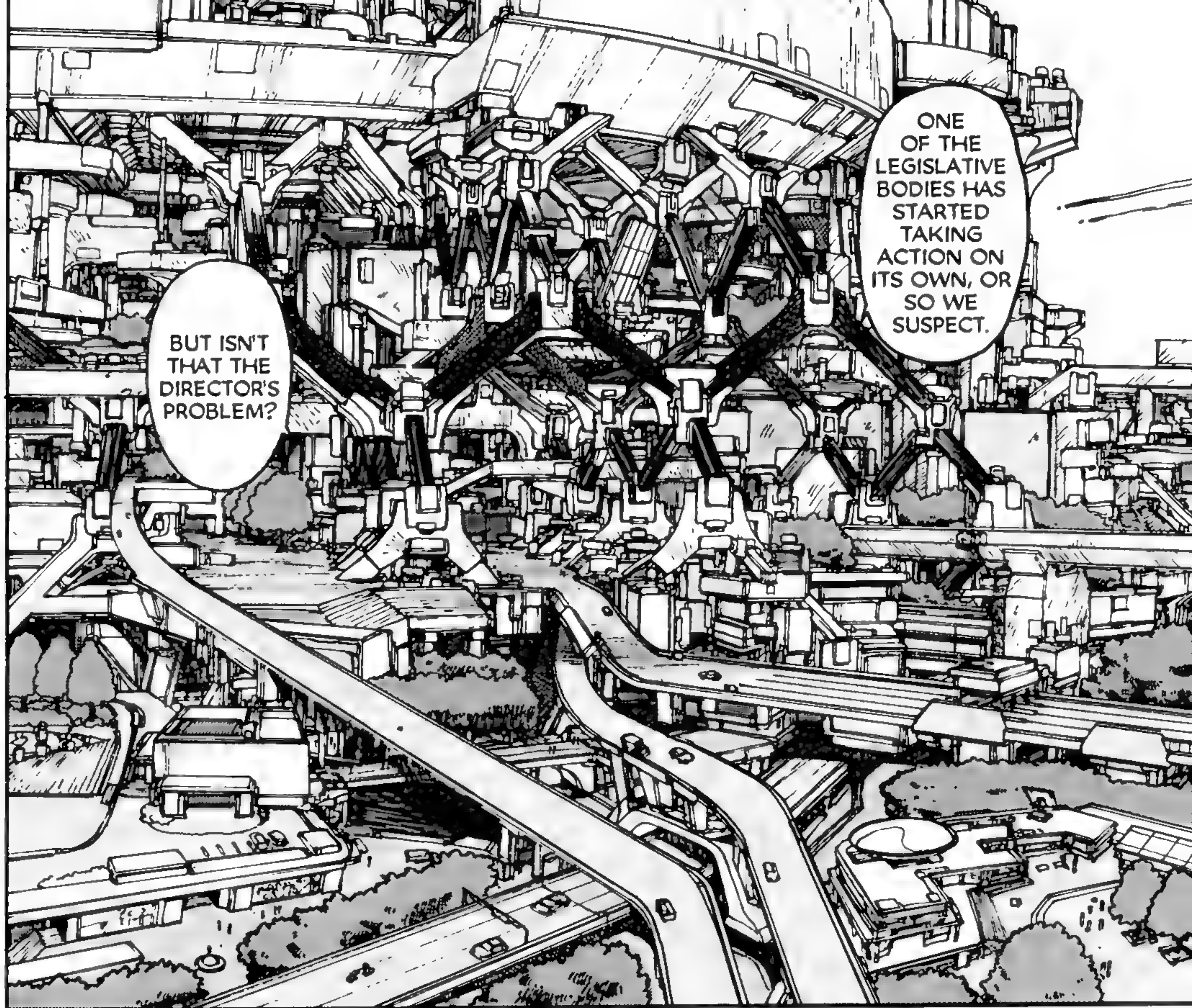
THIS ISN'T JUST A TRANSFER. YOU'VE GOT A NEW BOSS.

THE ESWAT\* TEAM DOESN'T ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS, DEUNAN.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME FOR THIS?

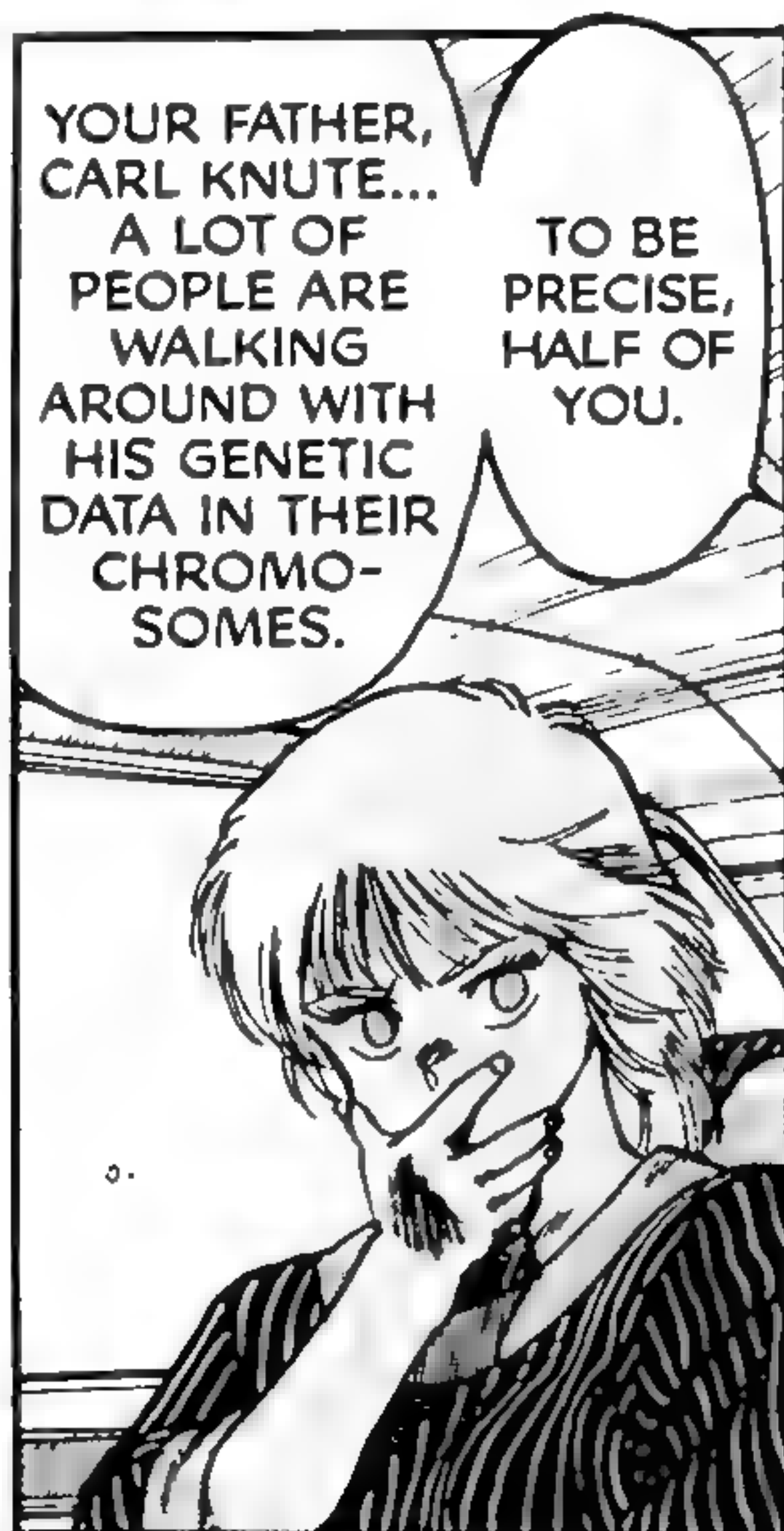
\*ESWAT: Extra Special Weapons And Tactics.





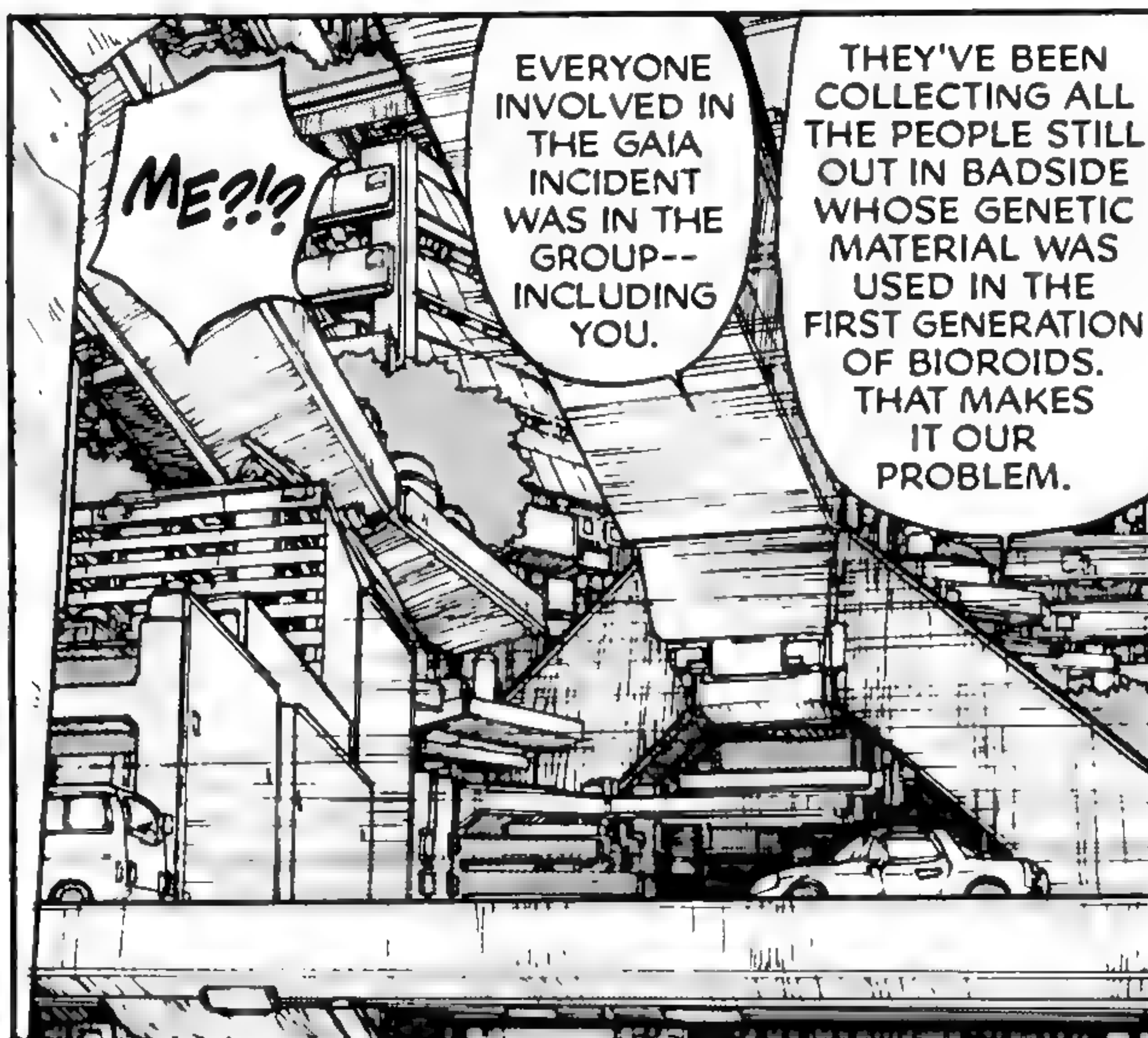
BUT ISN'T  
THAT THE  
DIRECTOR'S  
PROBLEM?

ONE  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE  
BODIES HAS  
STARTED  
TAKING  
ACTION ON  
ITS OWN, OR  
SO WE  
SUSPECT.



YOUR FATHER,  
CARL KNUTE...  
A LOT OF  
PEOPLE ARE  
WALKING  
AROUND WITH  
HIS GENETIC  
DATA IN THEIR  
CHROMO-  
SOMES.

TO BE  
PRECISE,  
HALF OF  
YOU.

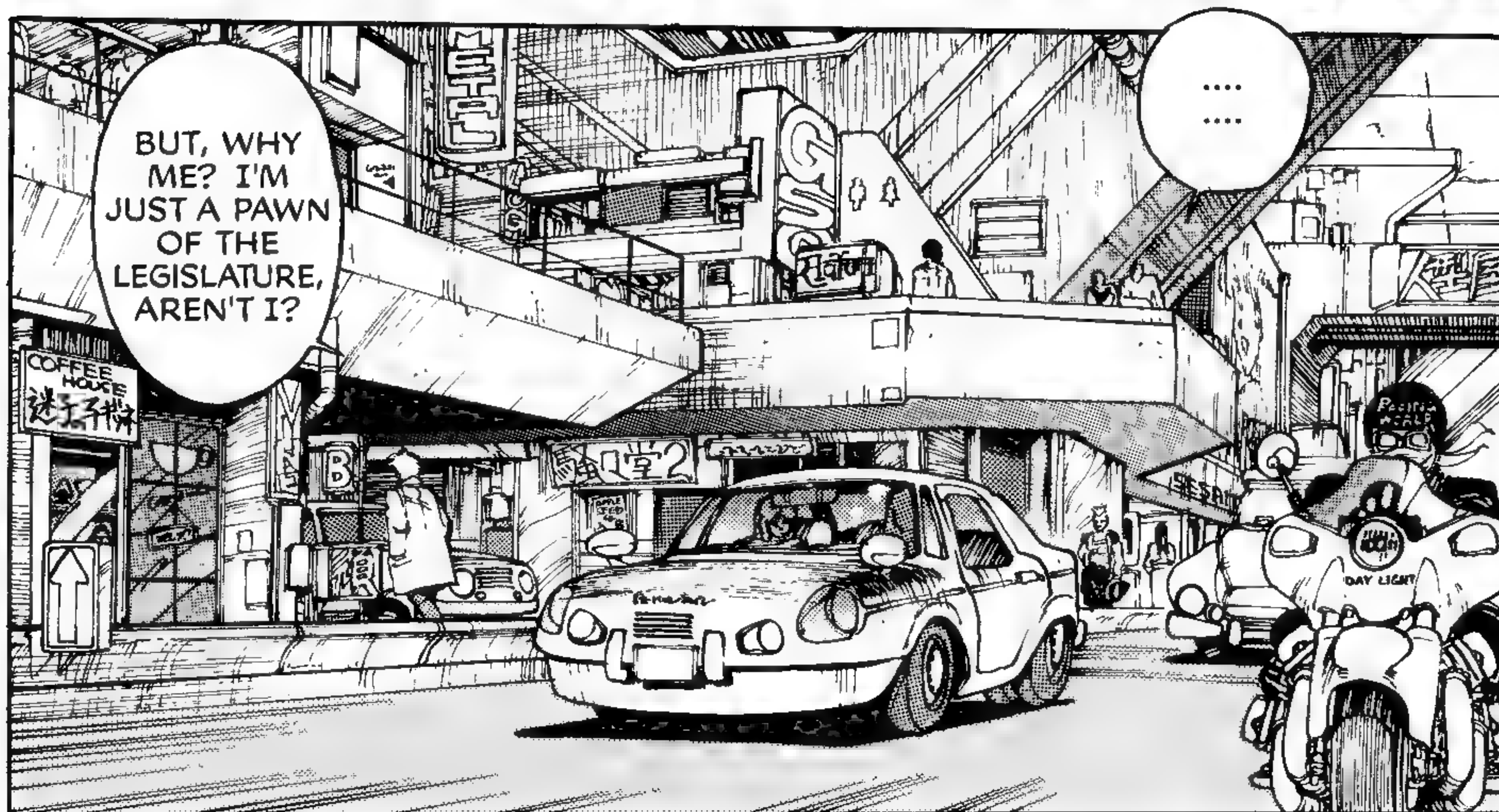
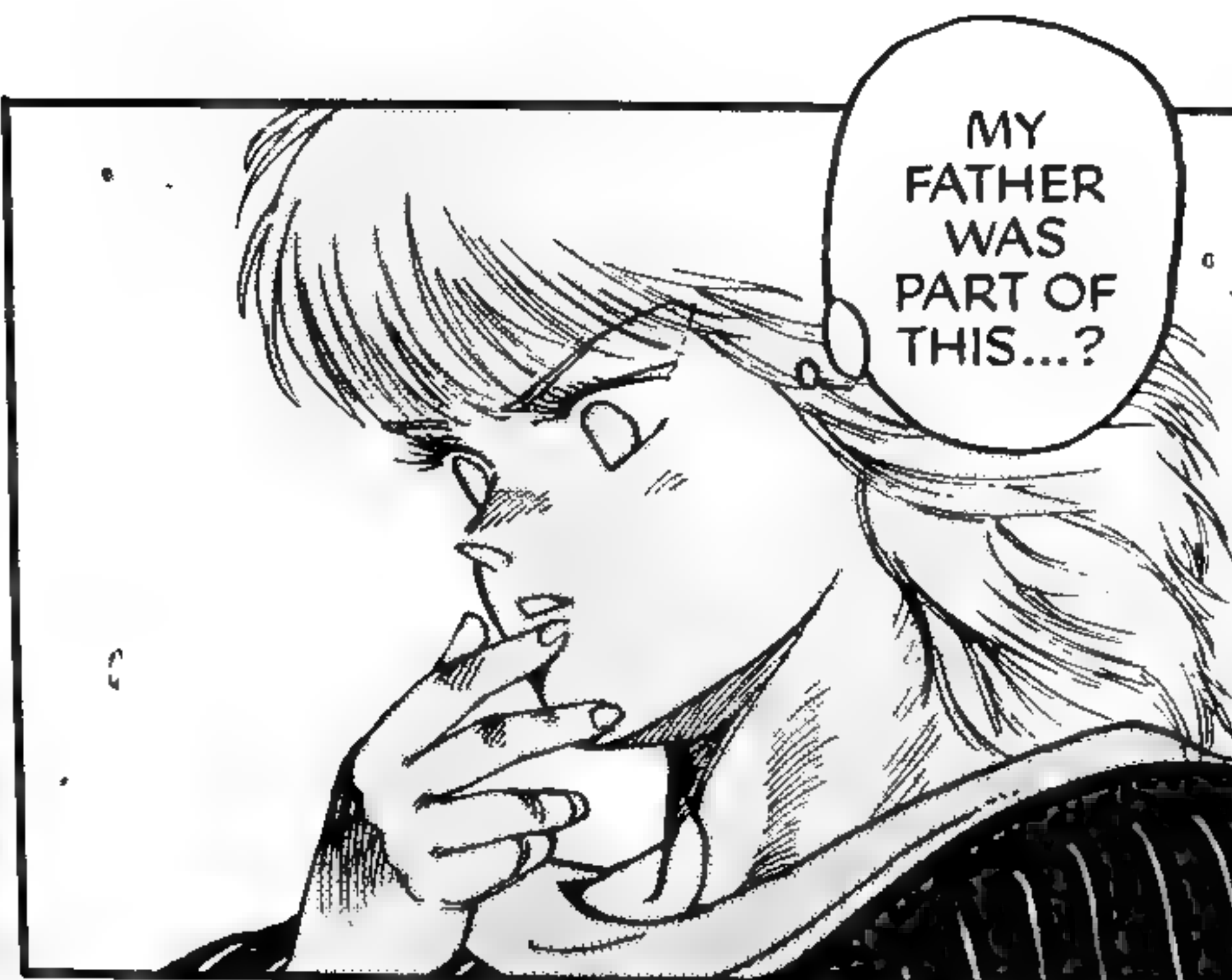
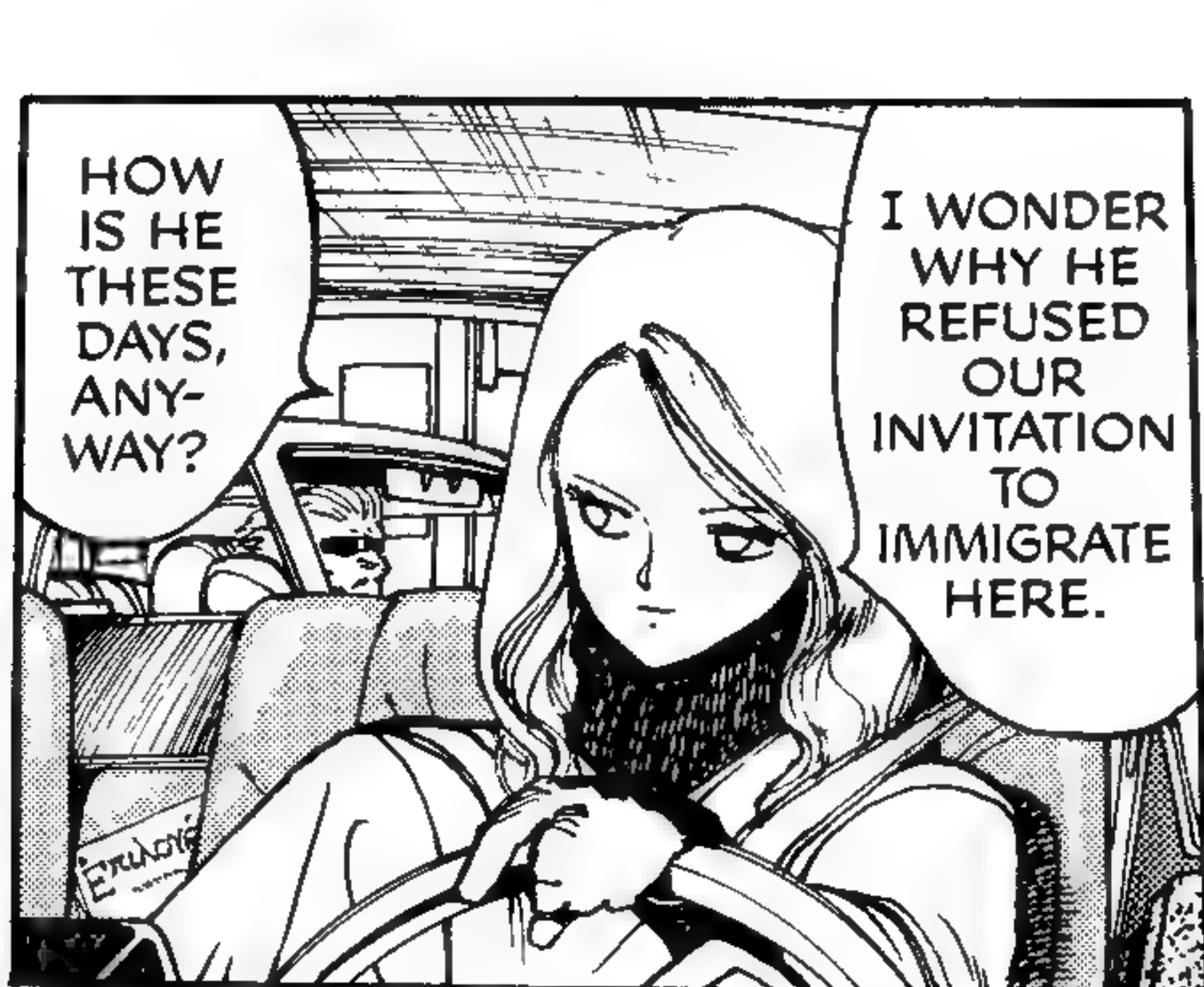


*ME?!?*

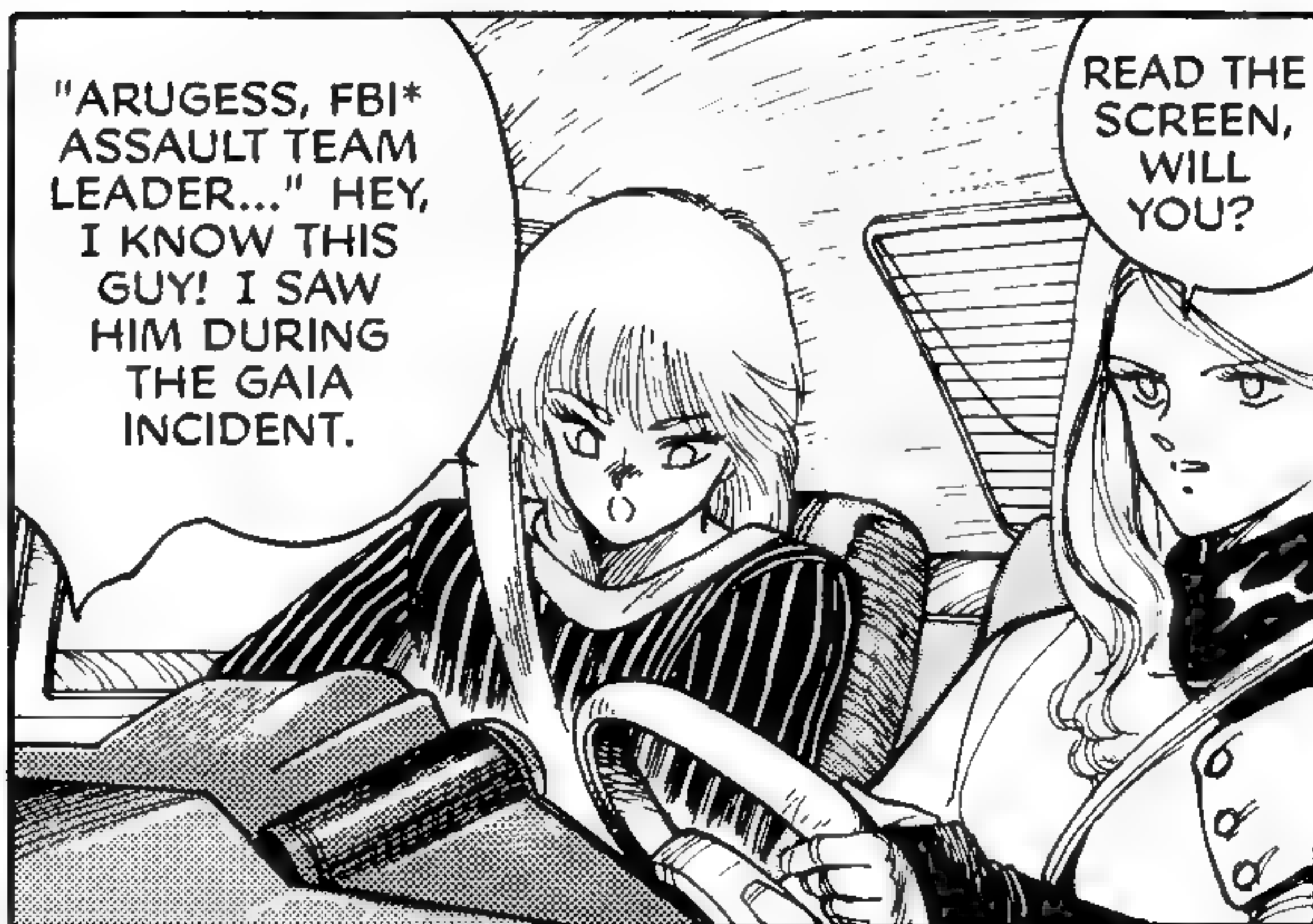
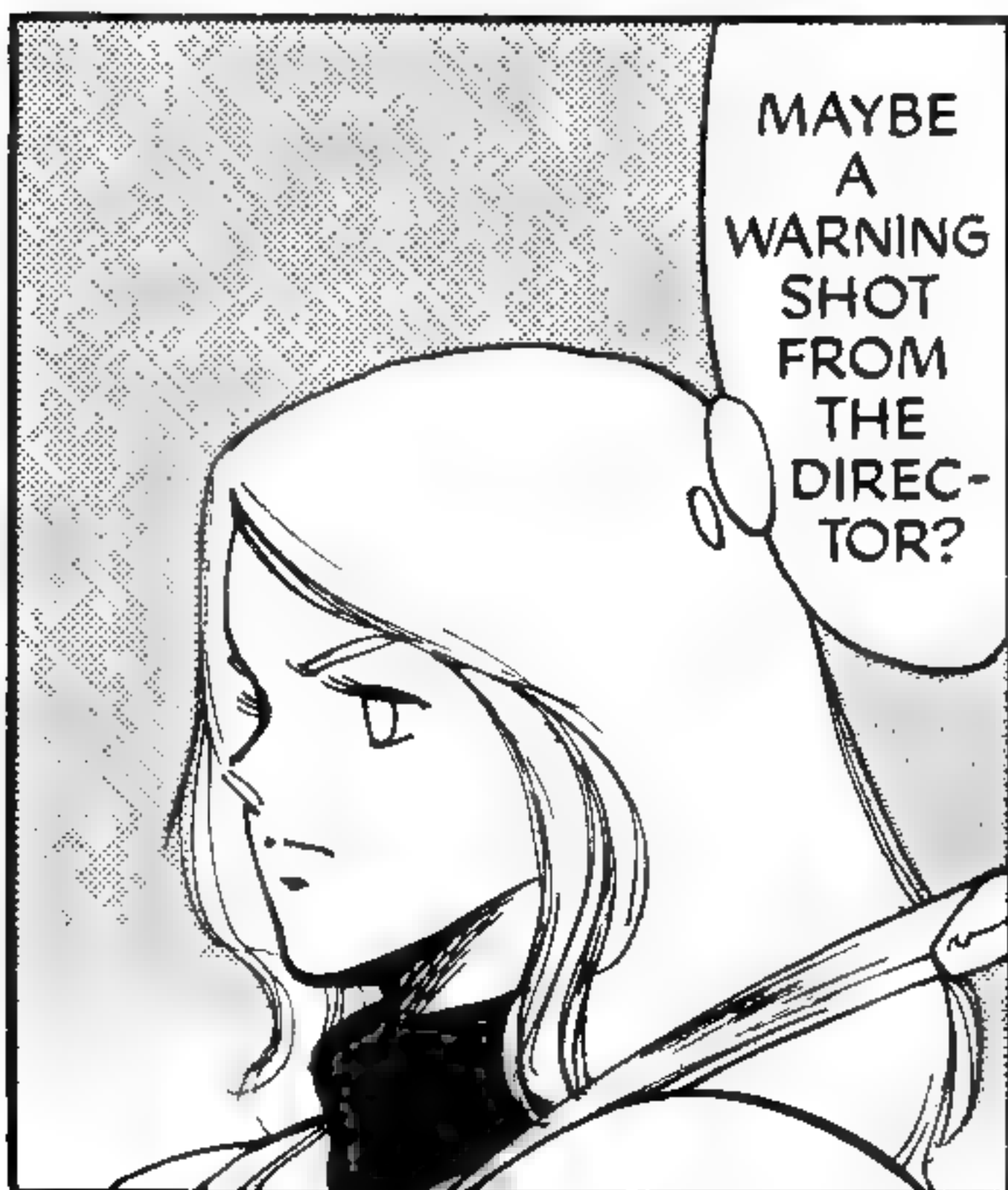
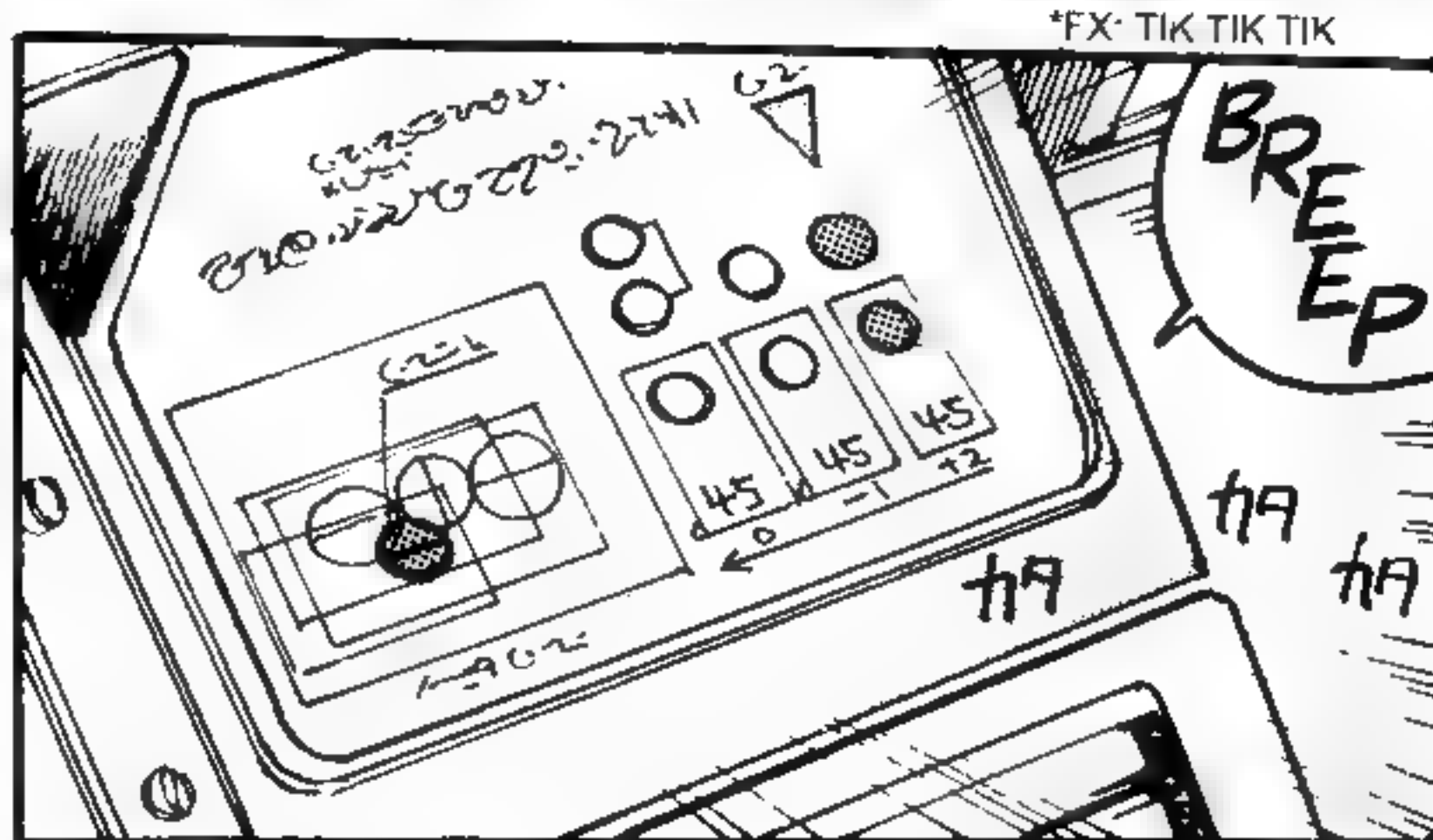
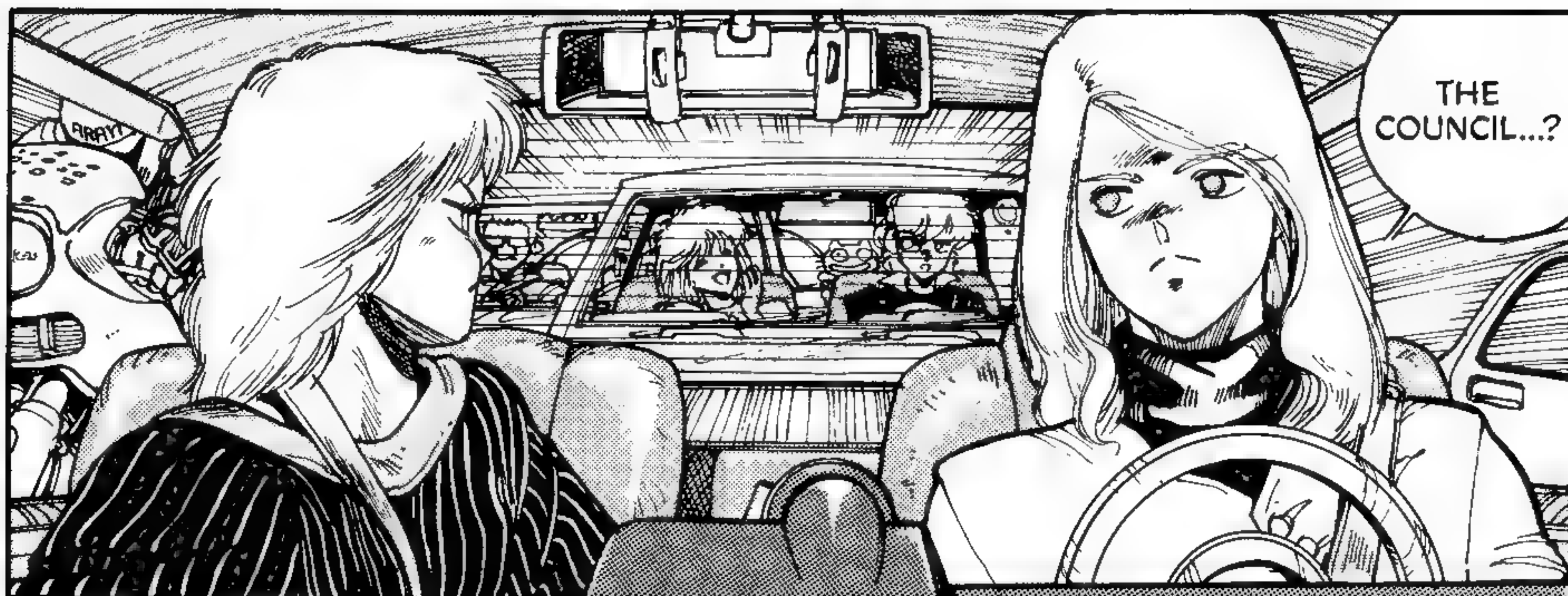
EVERYONE  
INVOLVED IN  
THE GAIA  
INCIDENT  
WAS IN THE  
GROUP--  
INCLUDING  
YOU.

THEY'VE BEEN  
COLLECTING ALL  
THE PEOPLE STILL  
OUT IN BADSIDE  
WHOSE GENETIC  
MATERIAL WAS  
USED IN THE  
FIRST GENERATION  
OF BIOROIDS.  
THAT MAKES  
IT OUR  
PROBLEM.



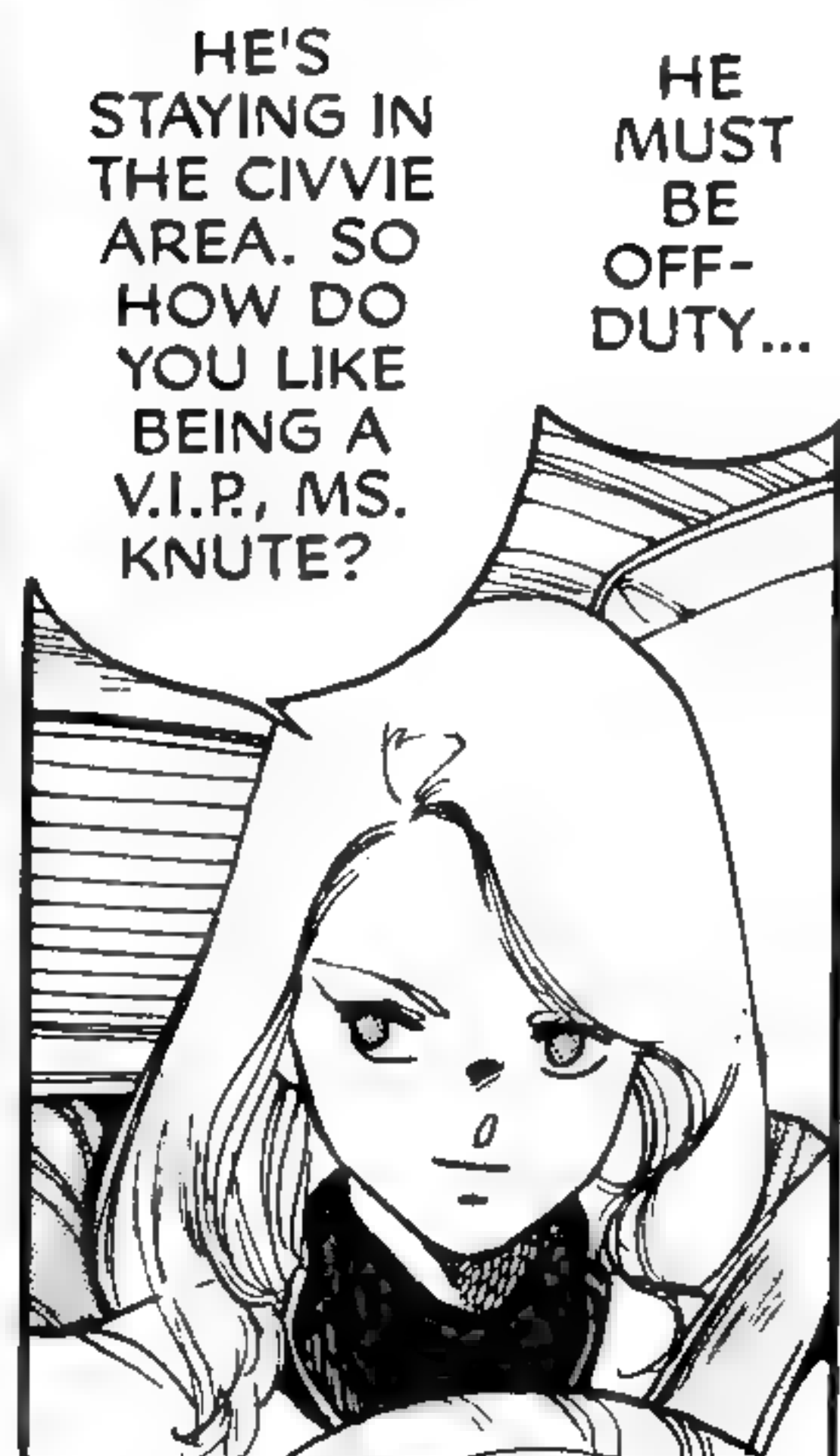
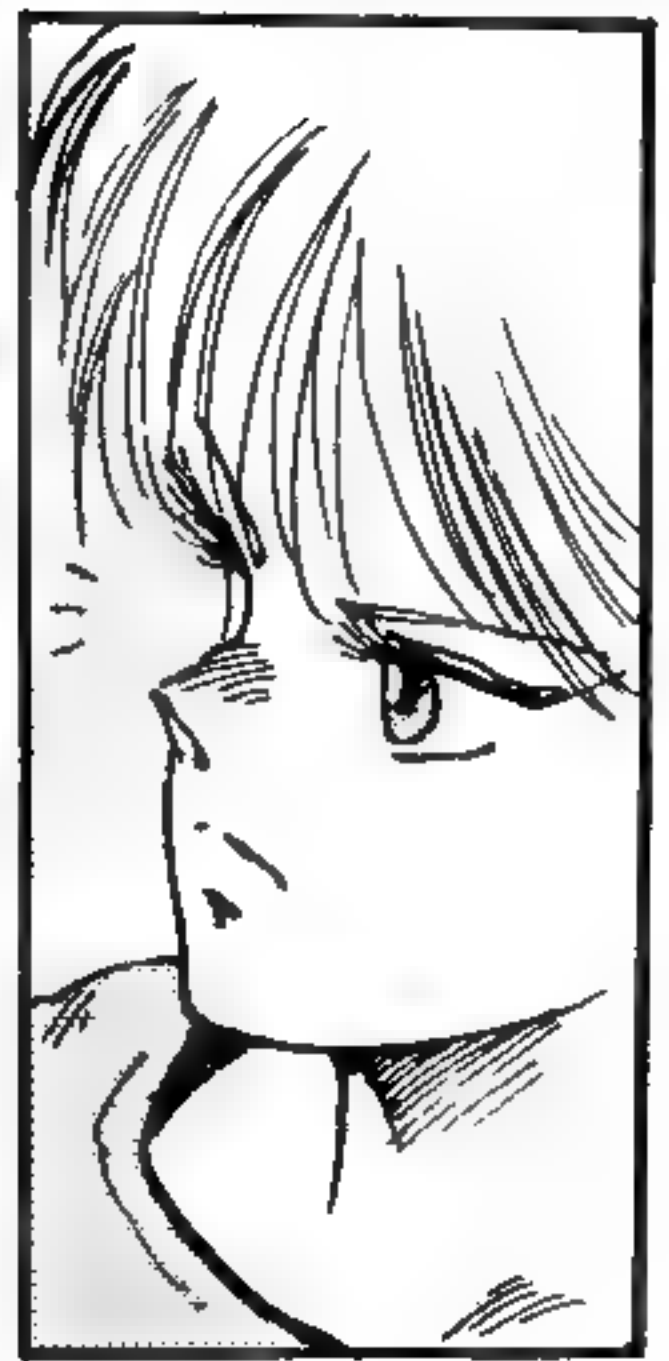
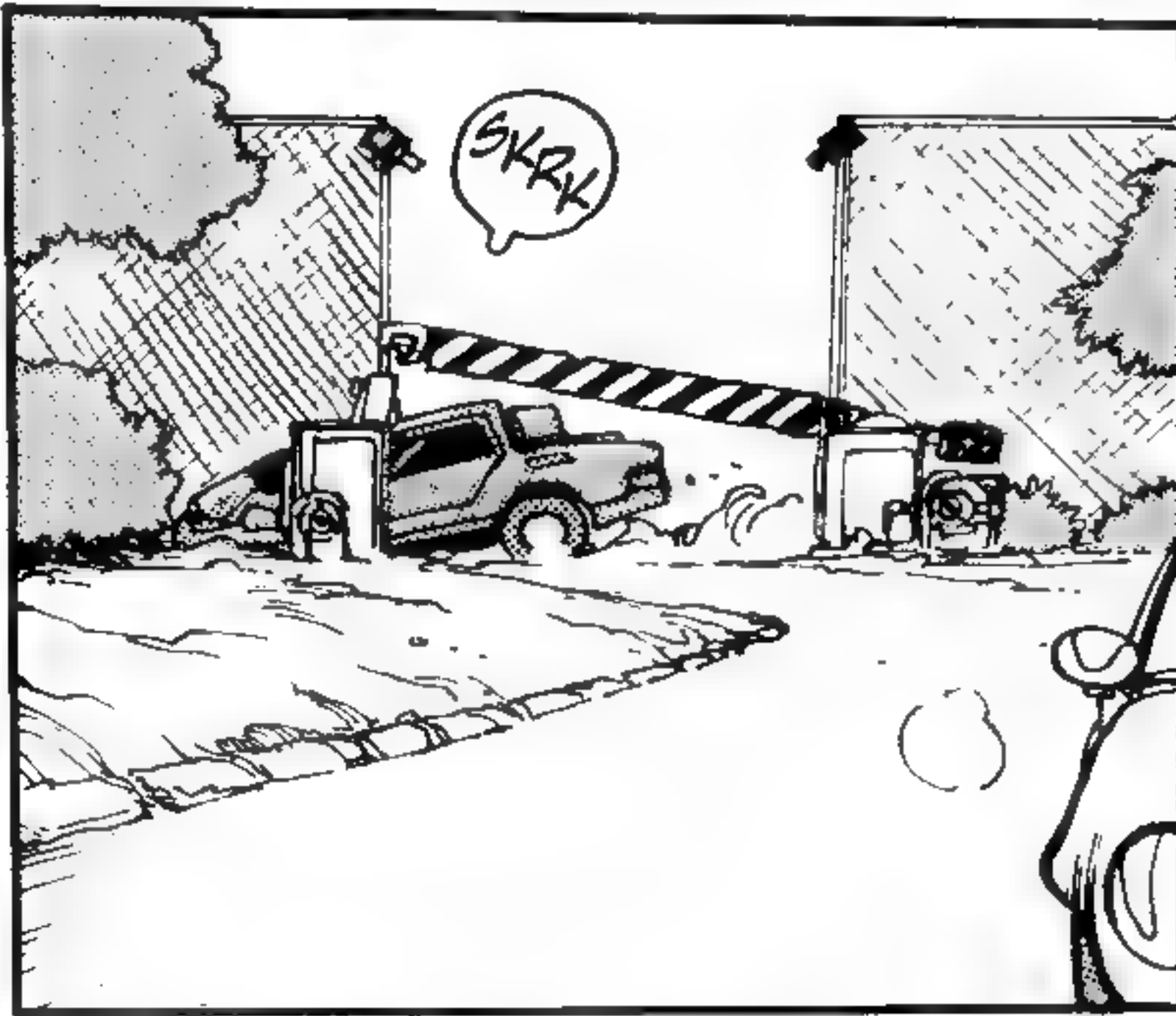




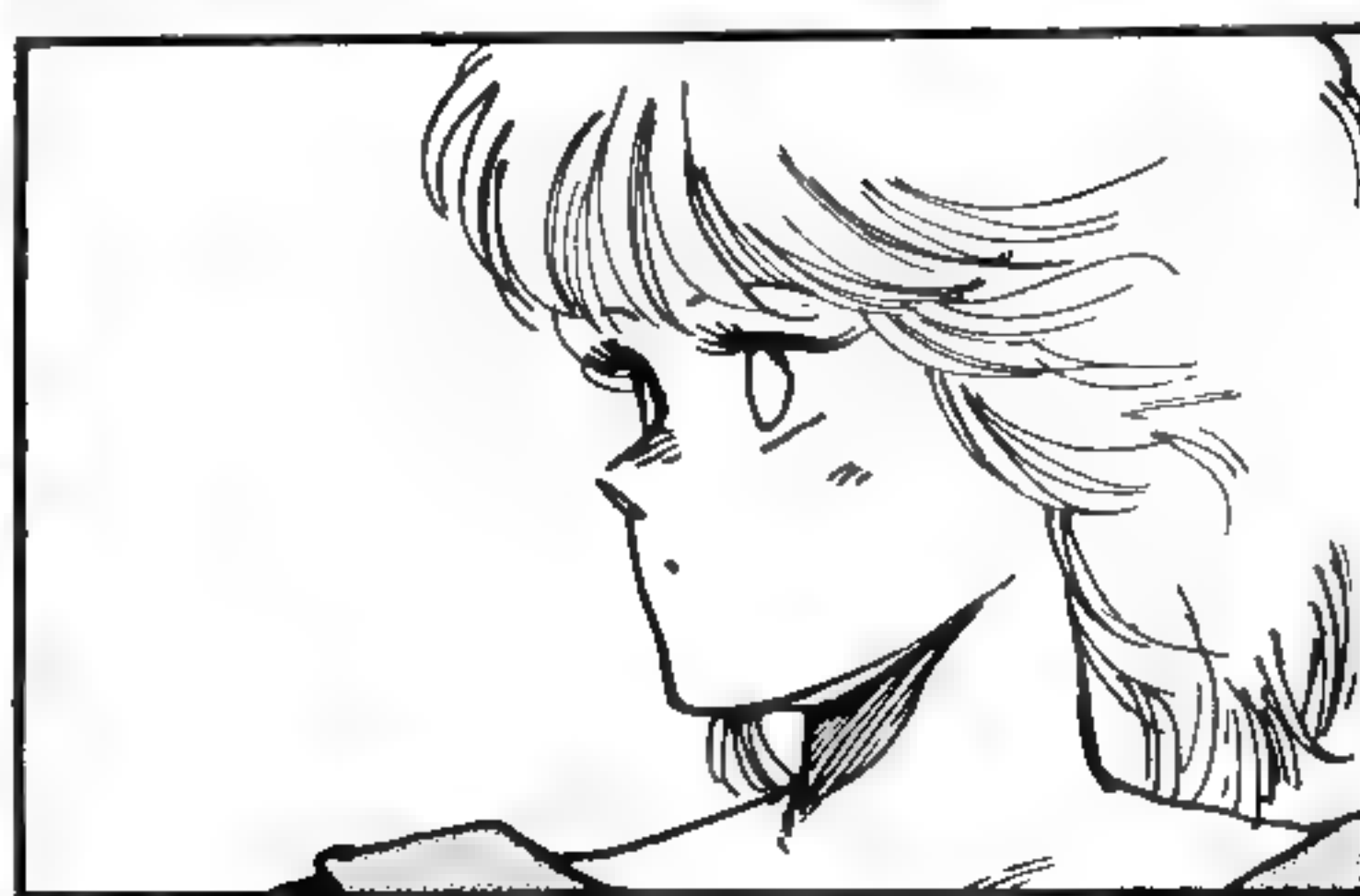
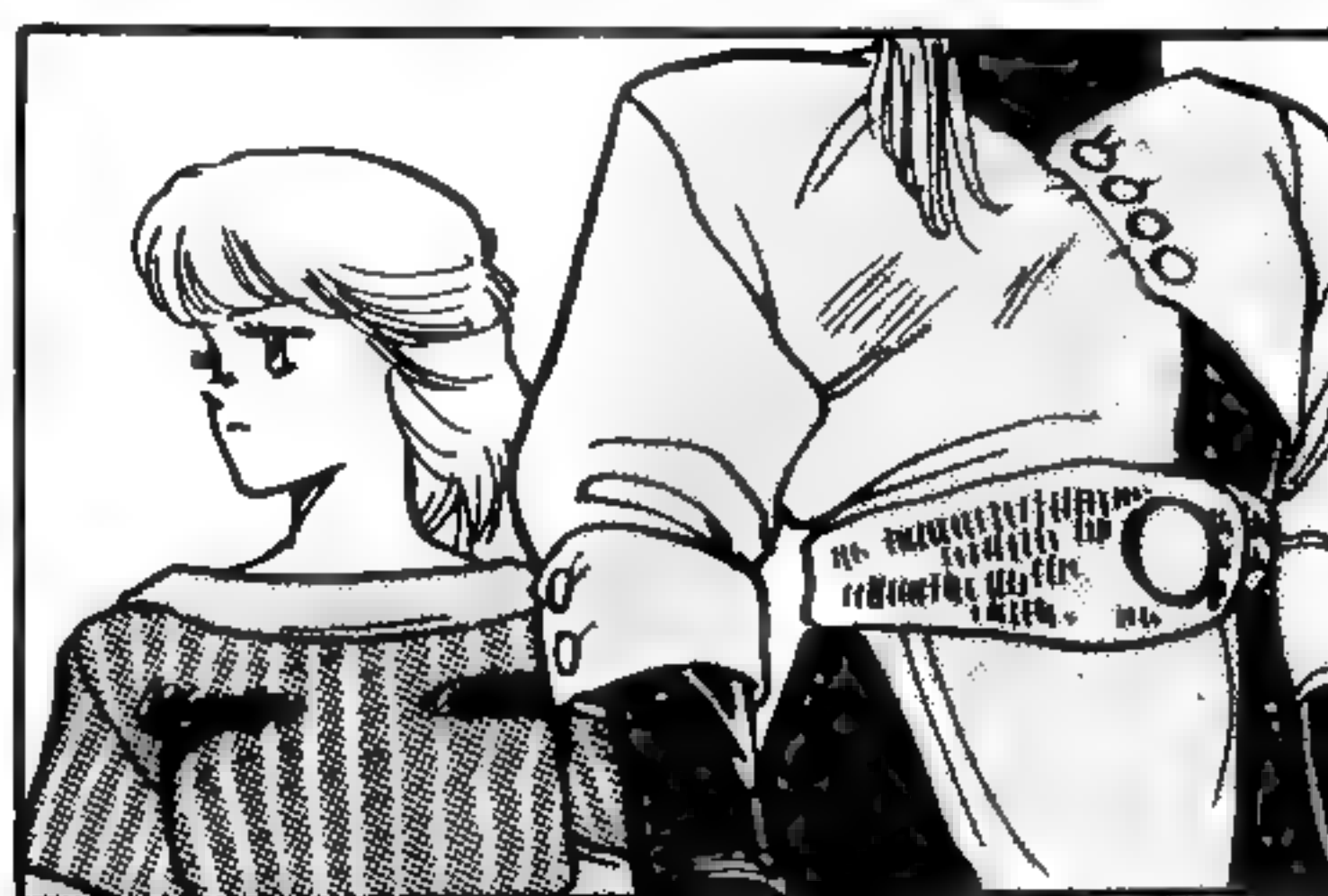
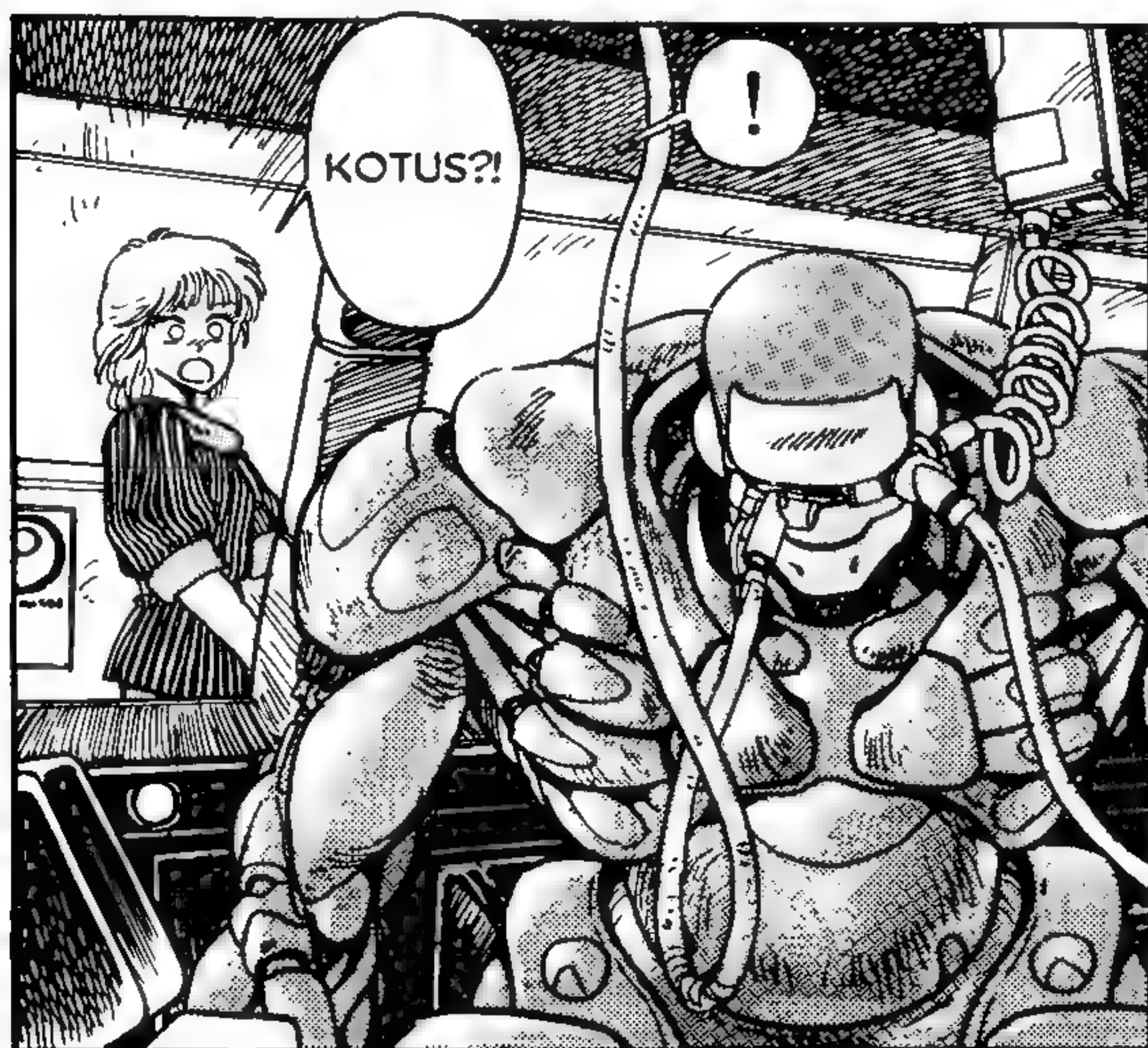
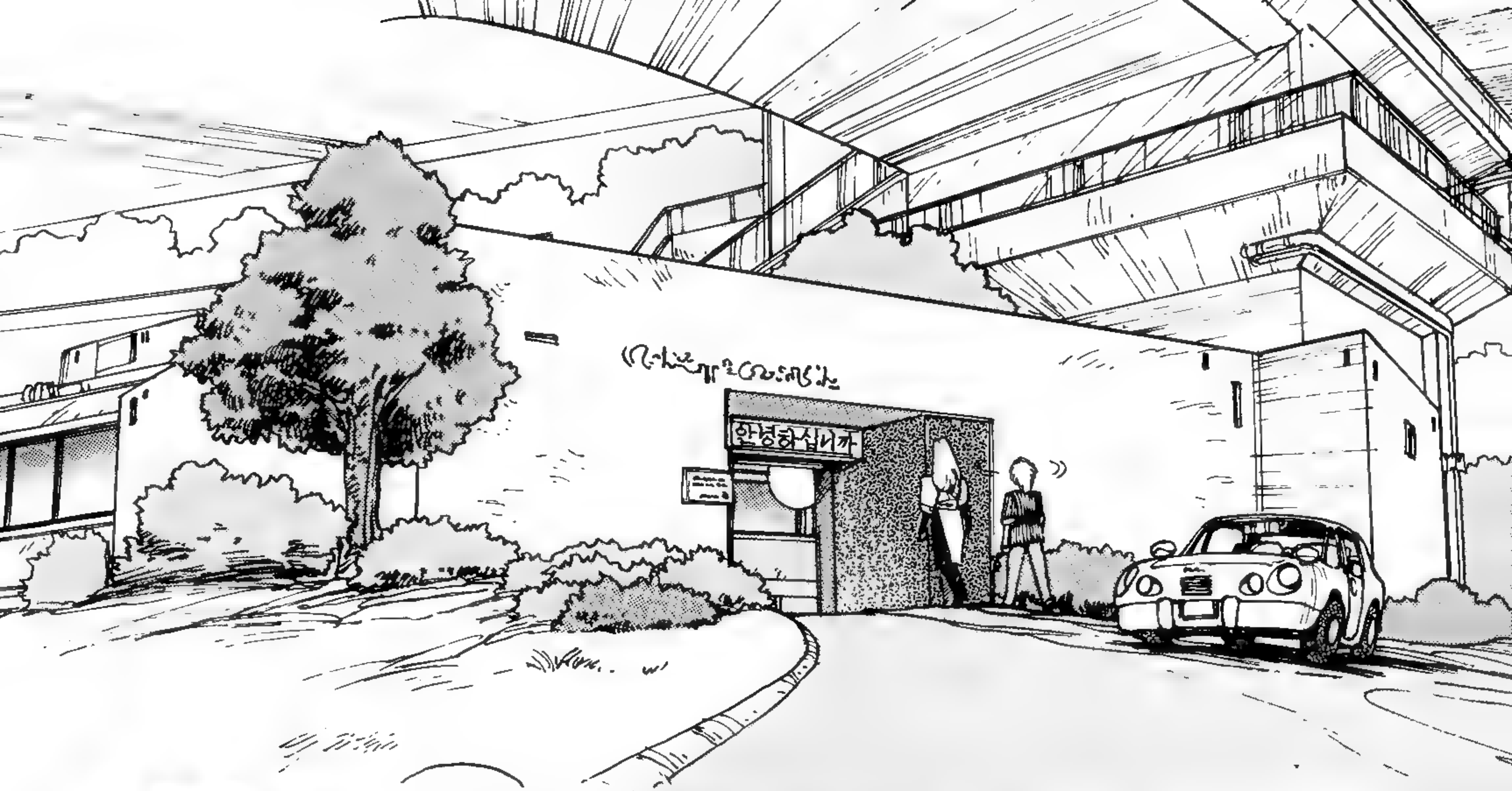


\*FBI: not the old American model, but the highest priority police organization in Olympus. Charged with investigating bioroid activities.

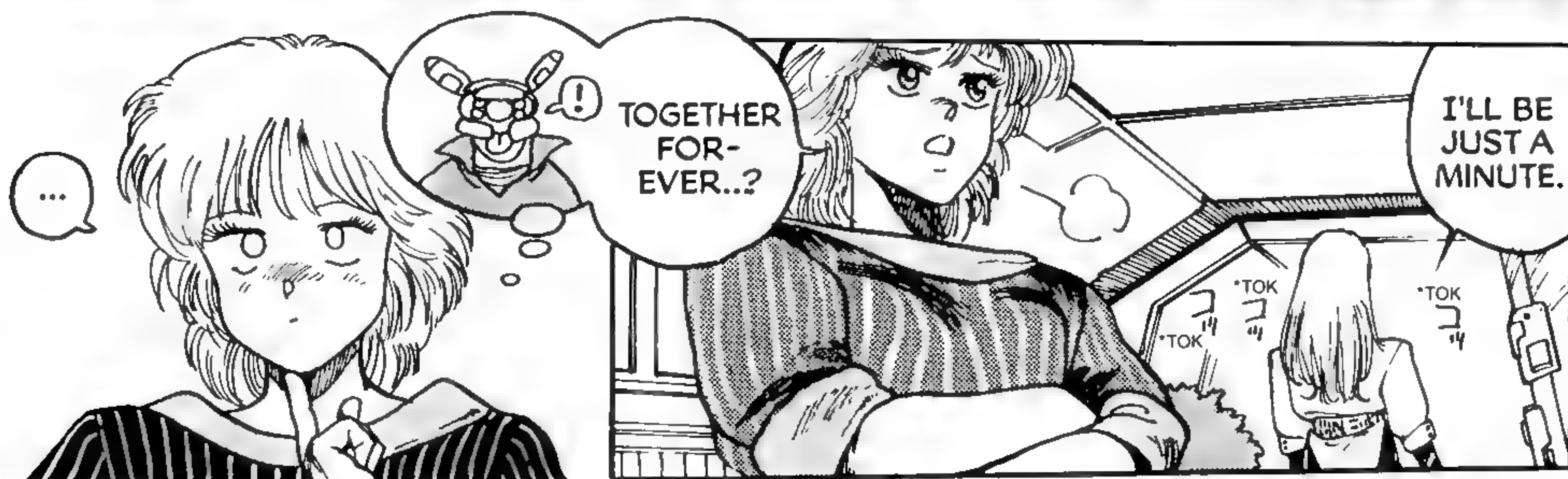
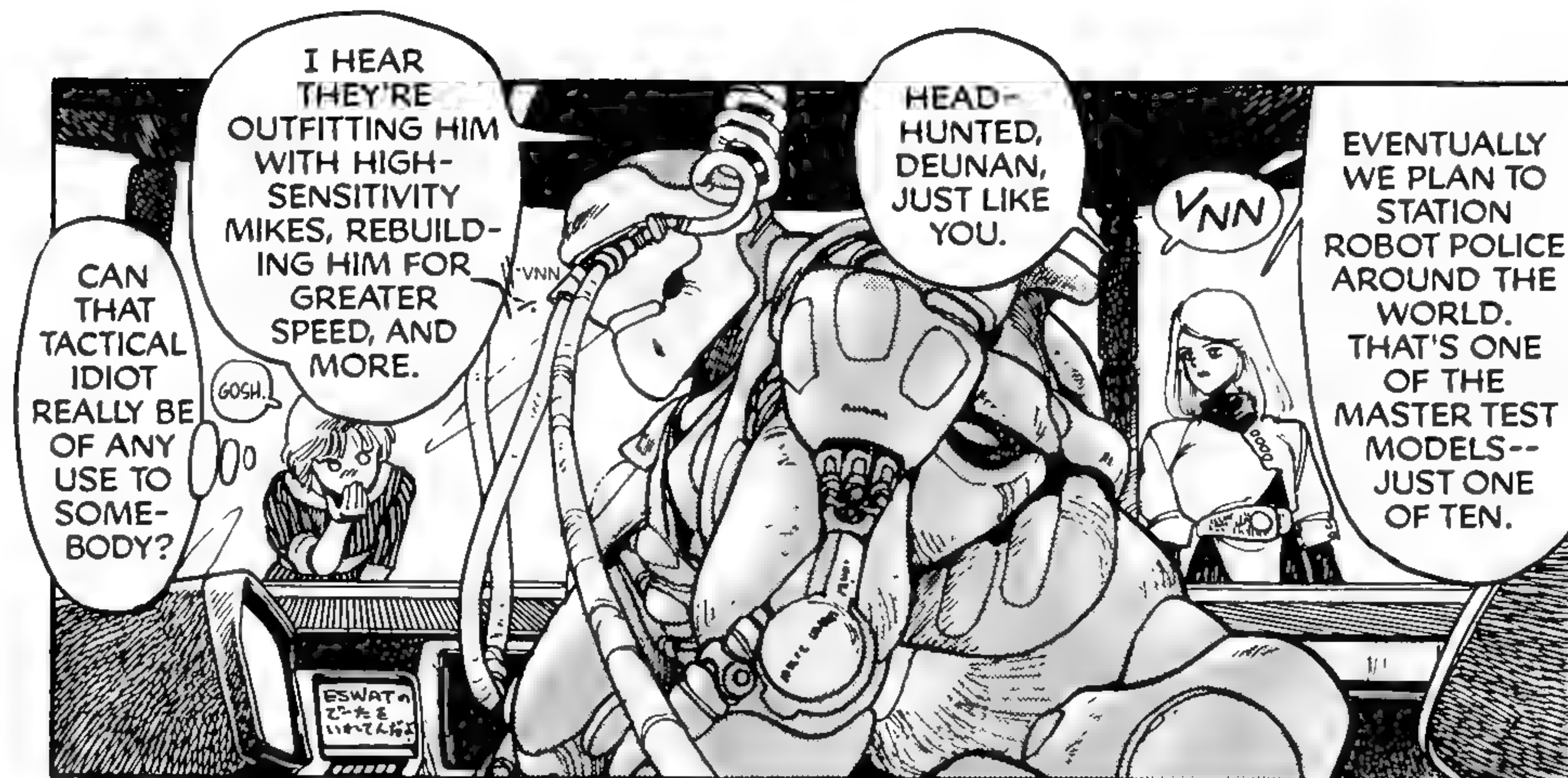










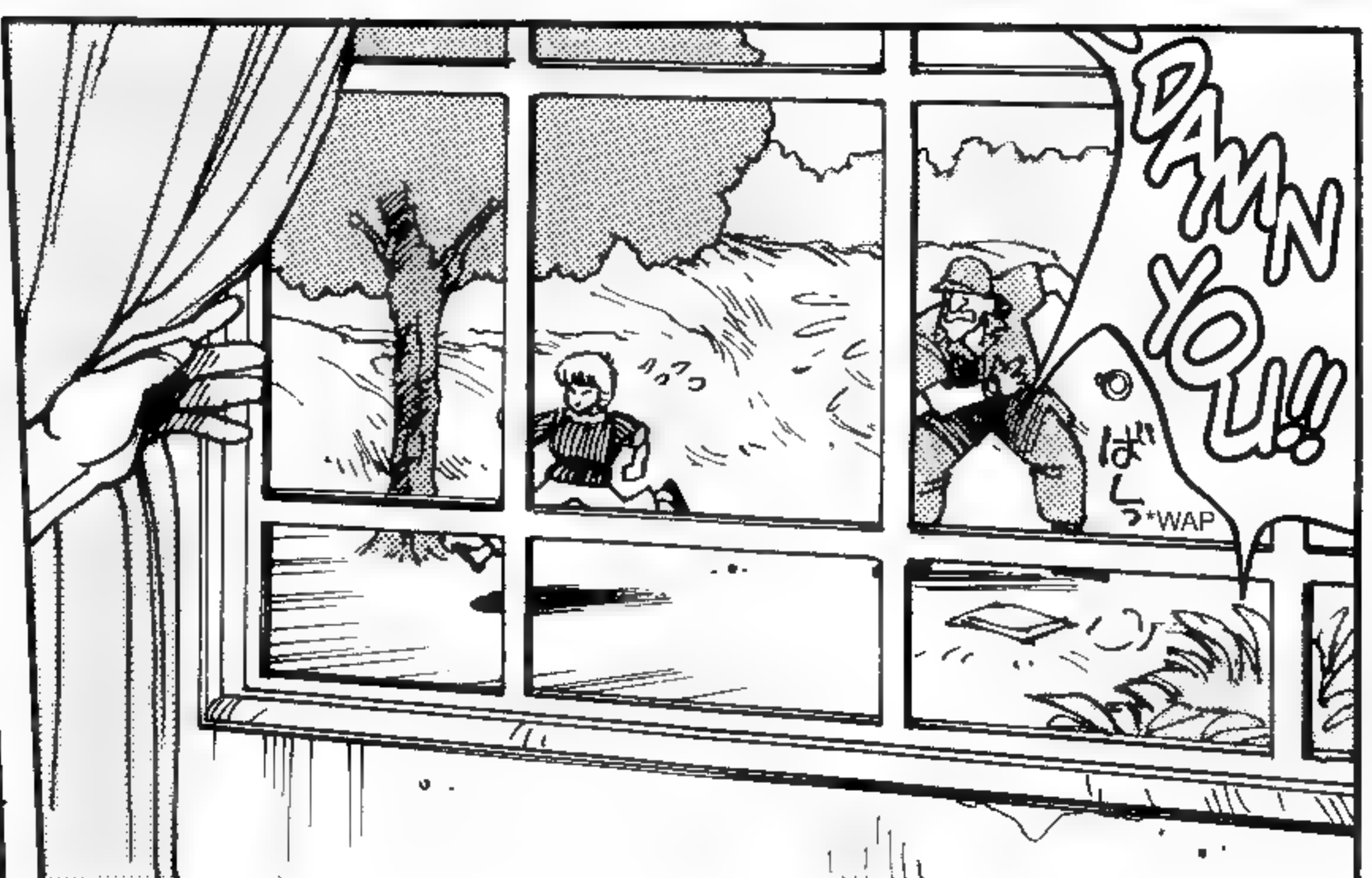
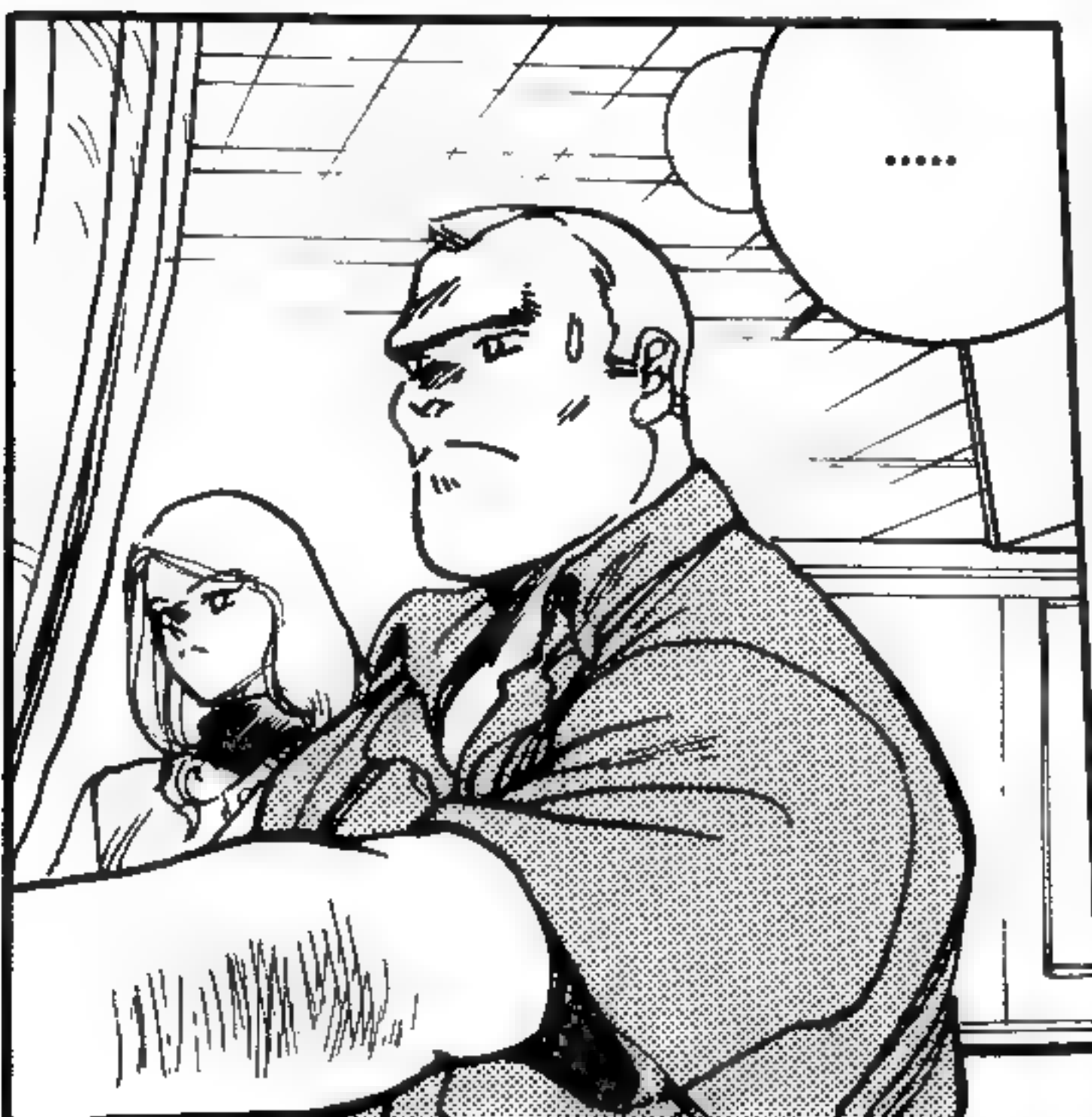
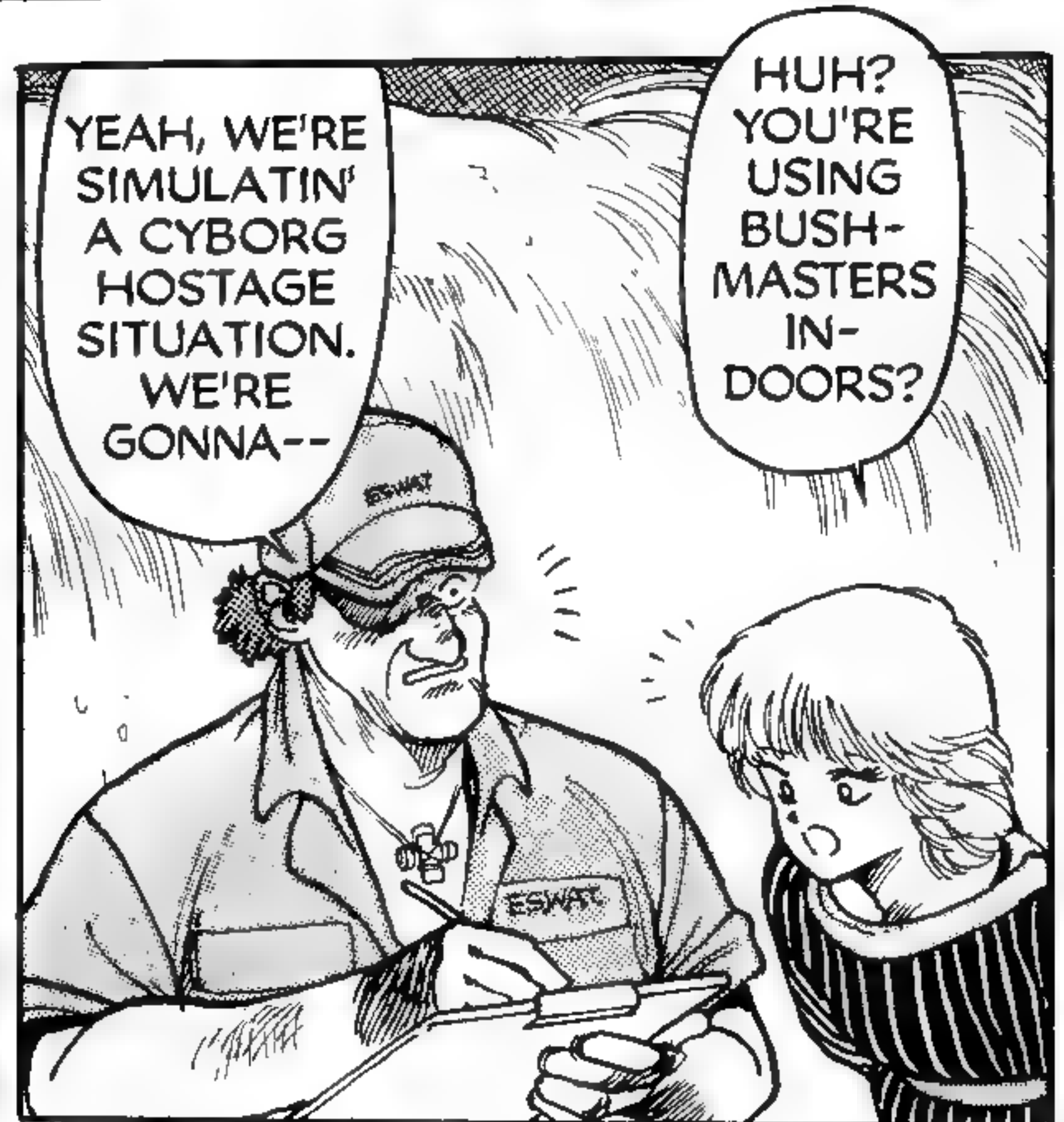
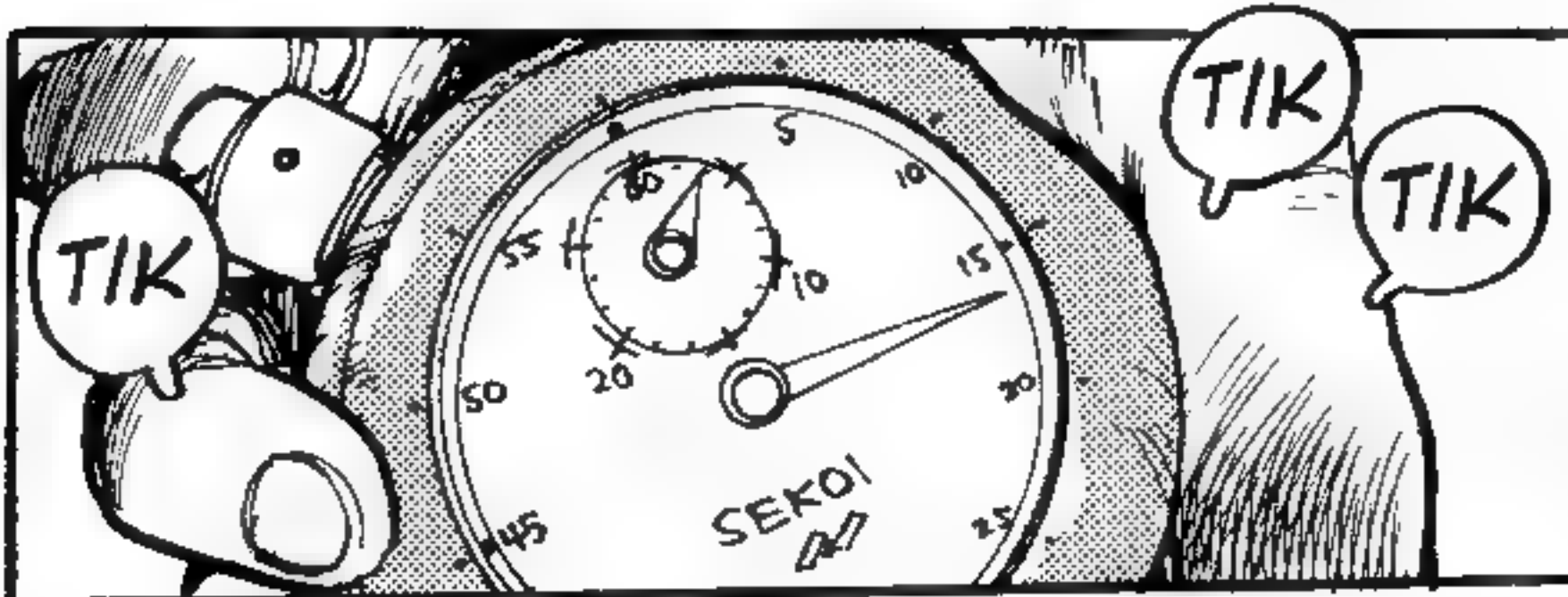
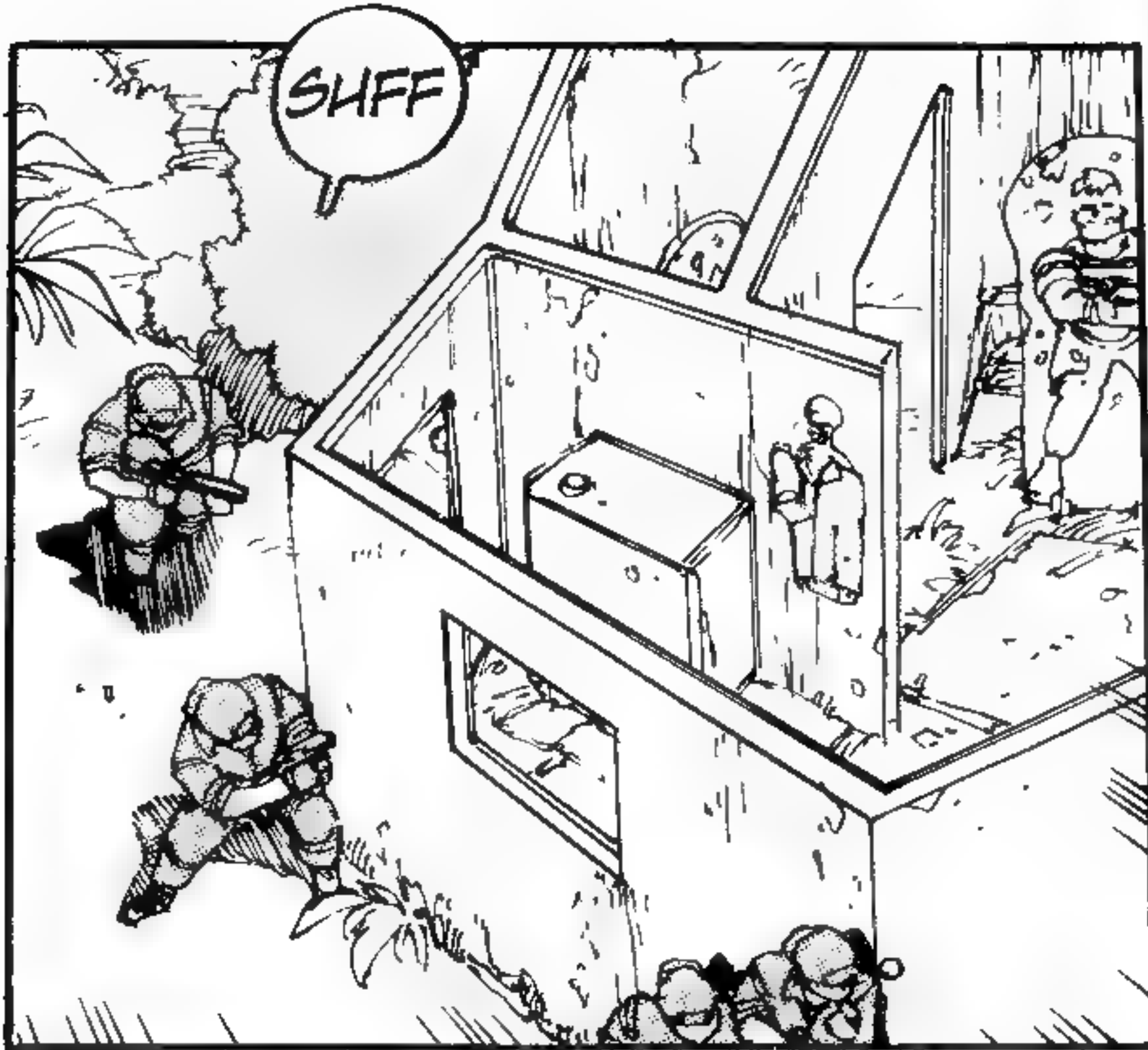


\*FX BAM BABAM

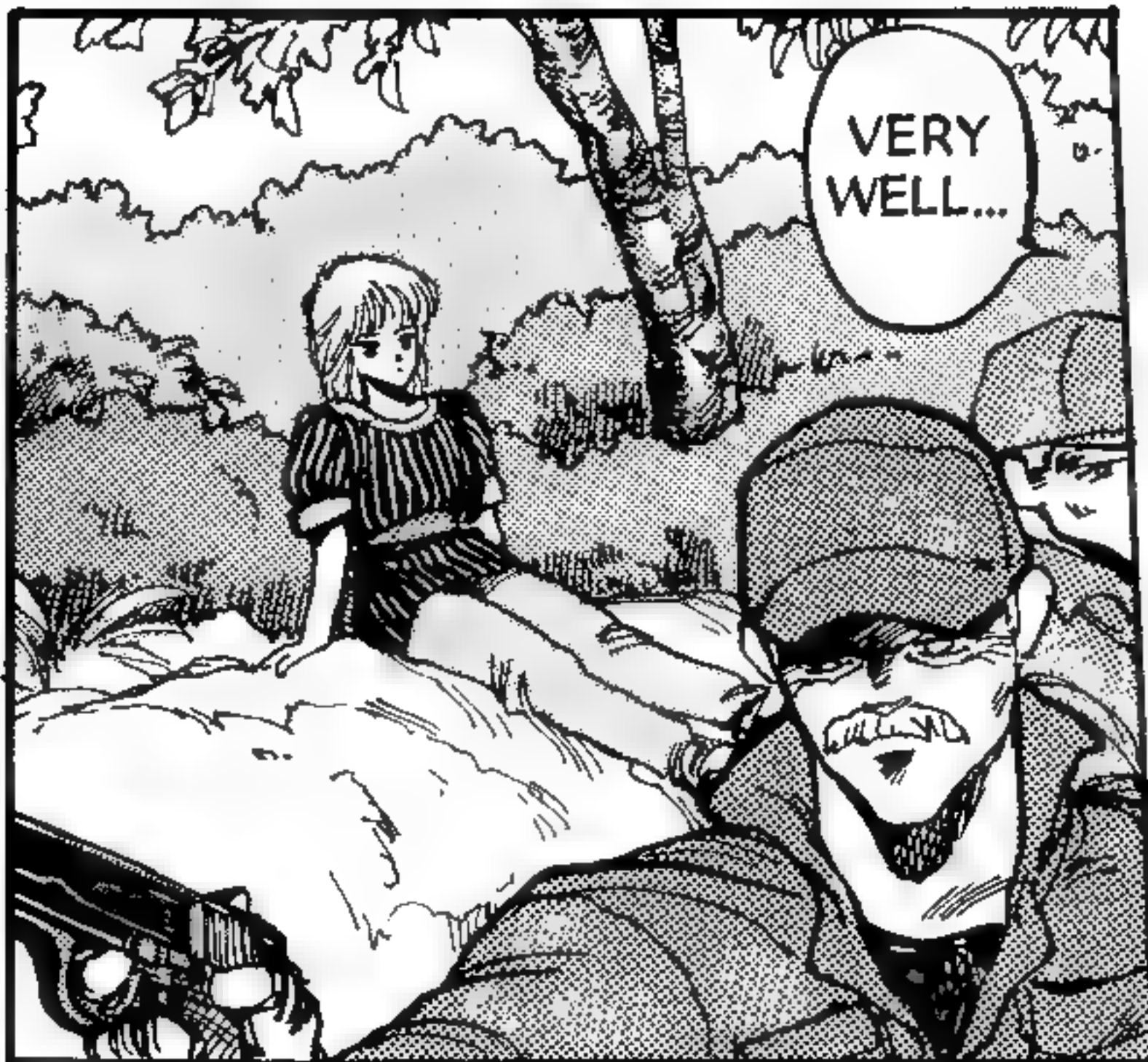
\*FX BRITTT



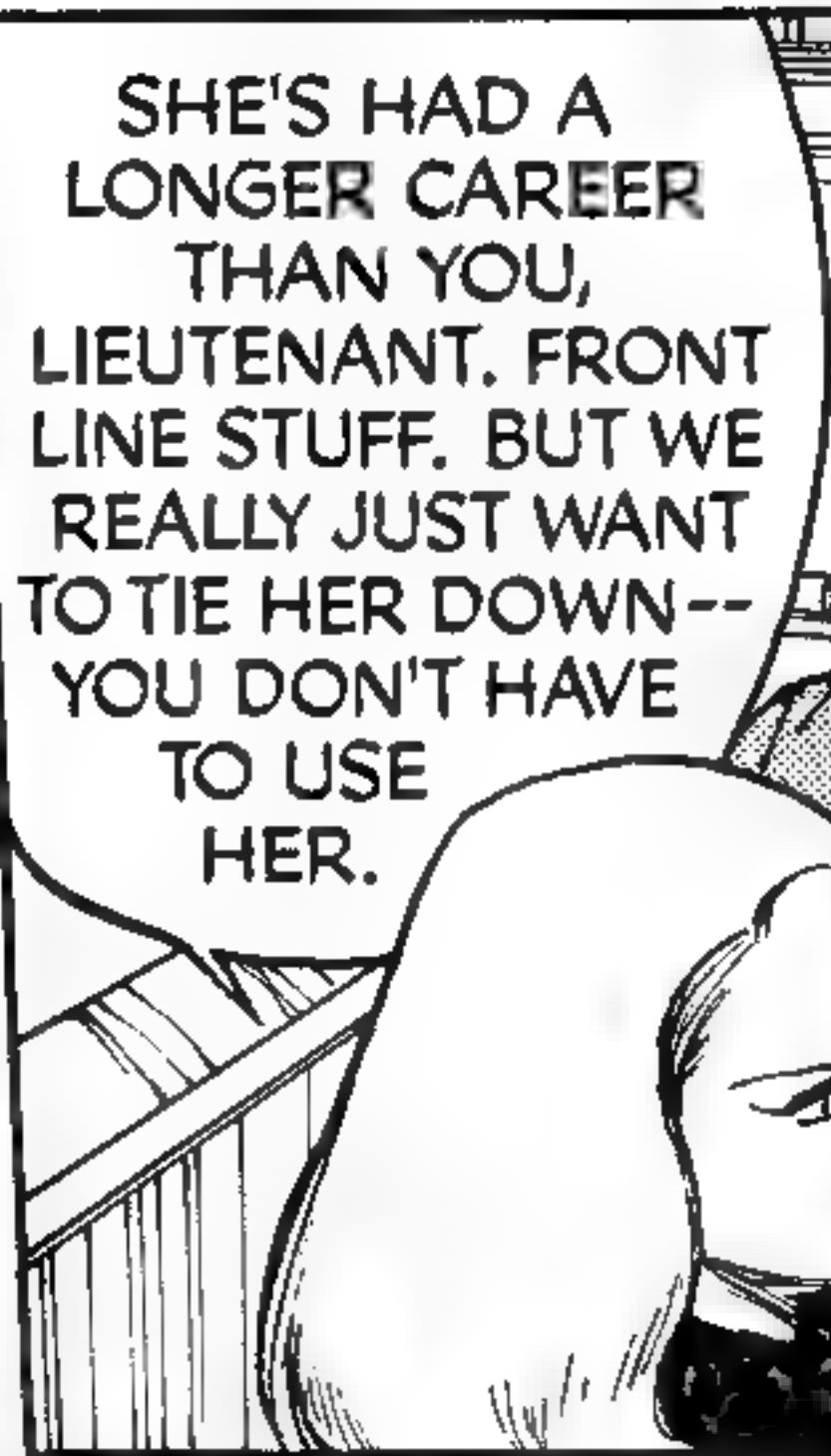








VERY WELL...



SHE'S HAD A LONGER CAREER THAN YOU, LIEUTENANT. FRONT LINE STUFF. BUT WE REALLY JUST WANT TO TIE HER DOWN-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE HER.



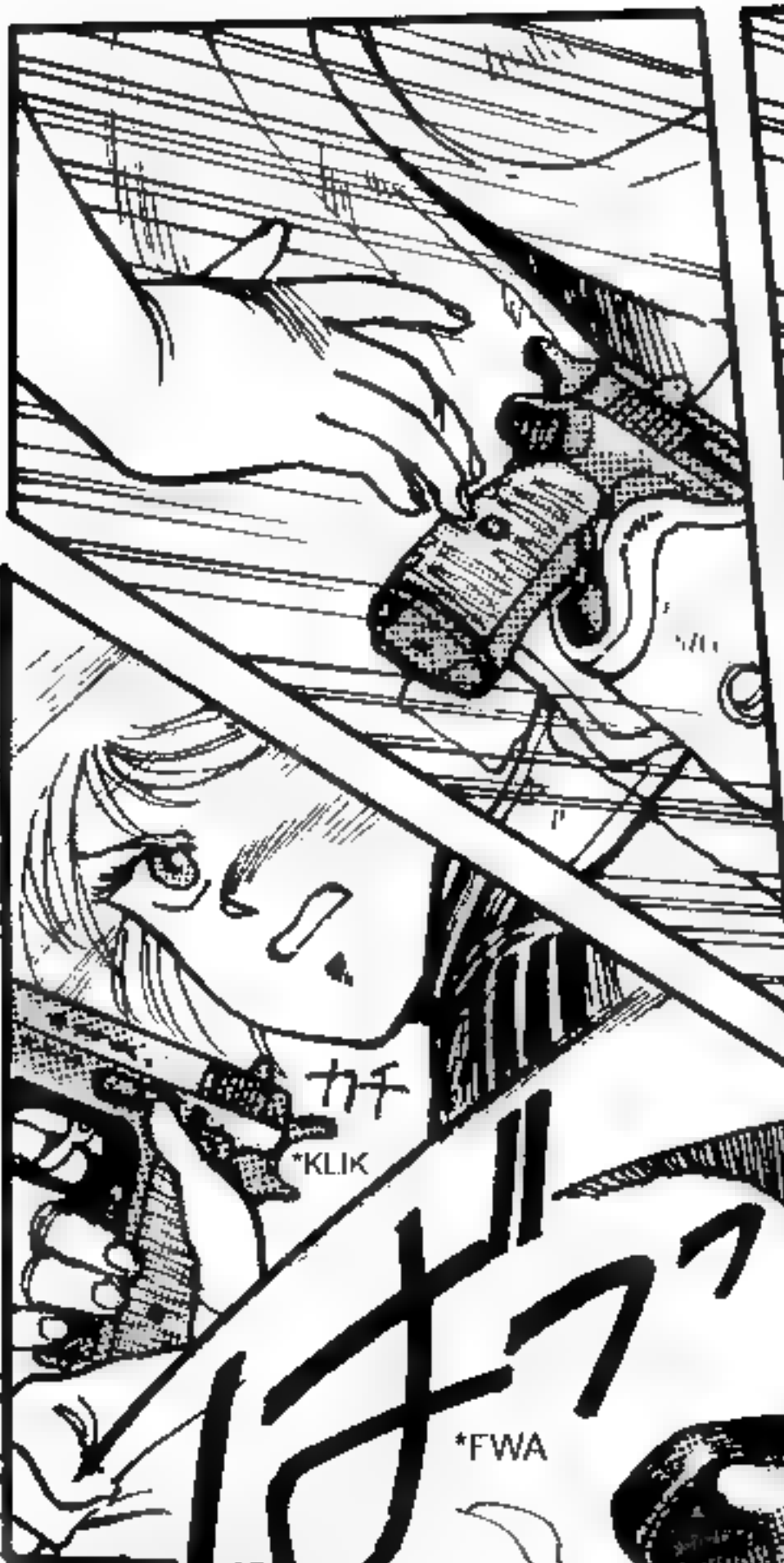
THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF JOKE, IS IT? YOU'RE REALLY SIGNING HER ON?



!

\*FX WHOK

\*FX KSSH

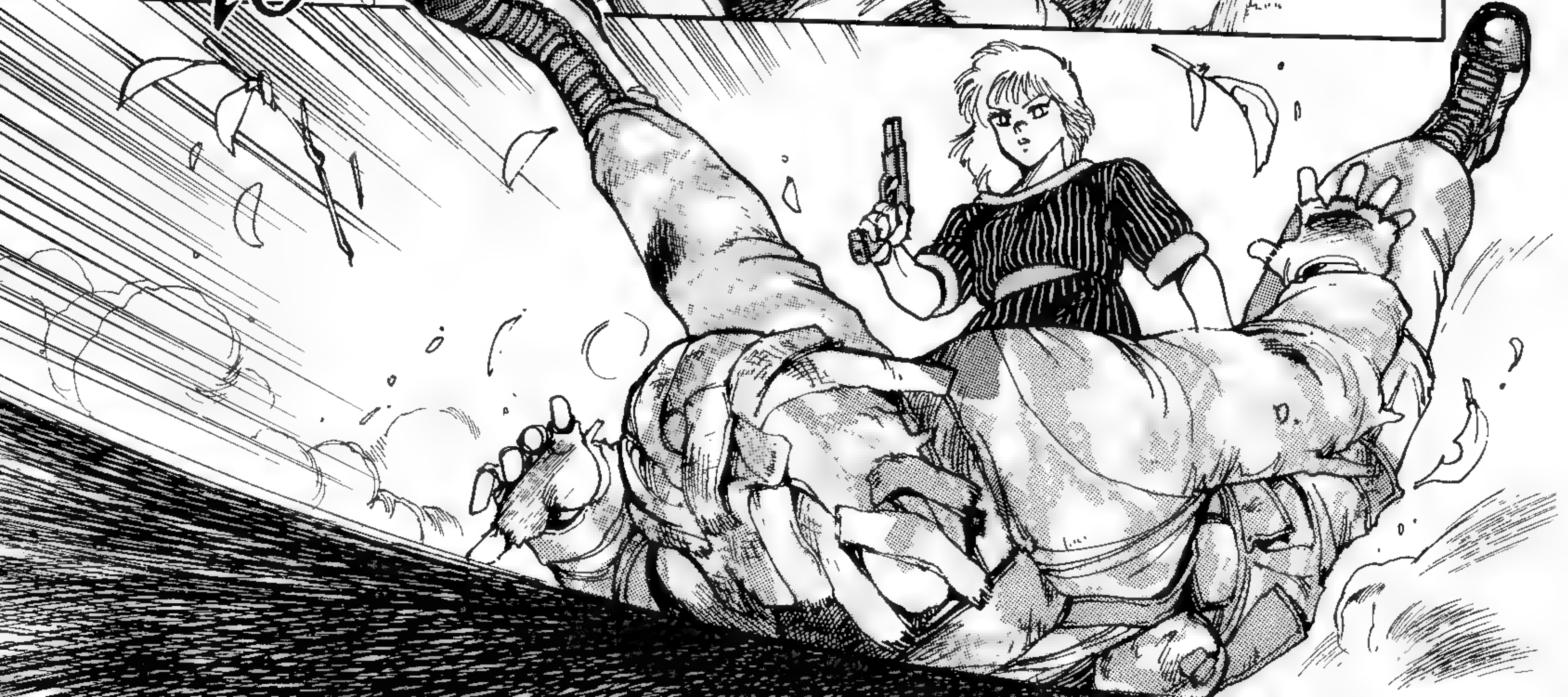


\*KLIK

\*FWA

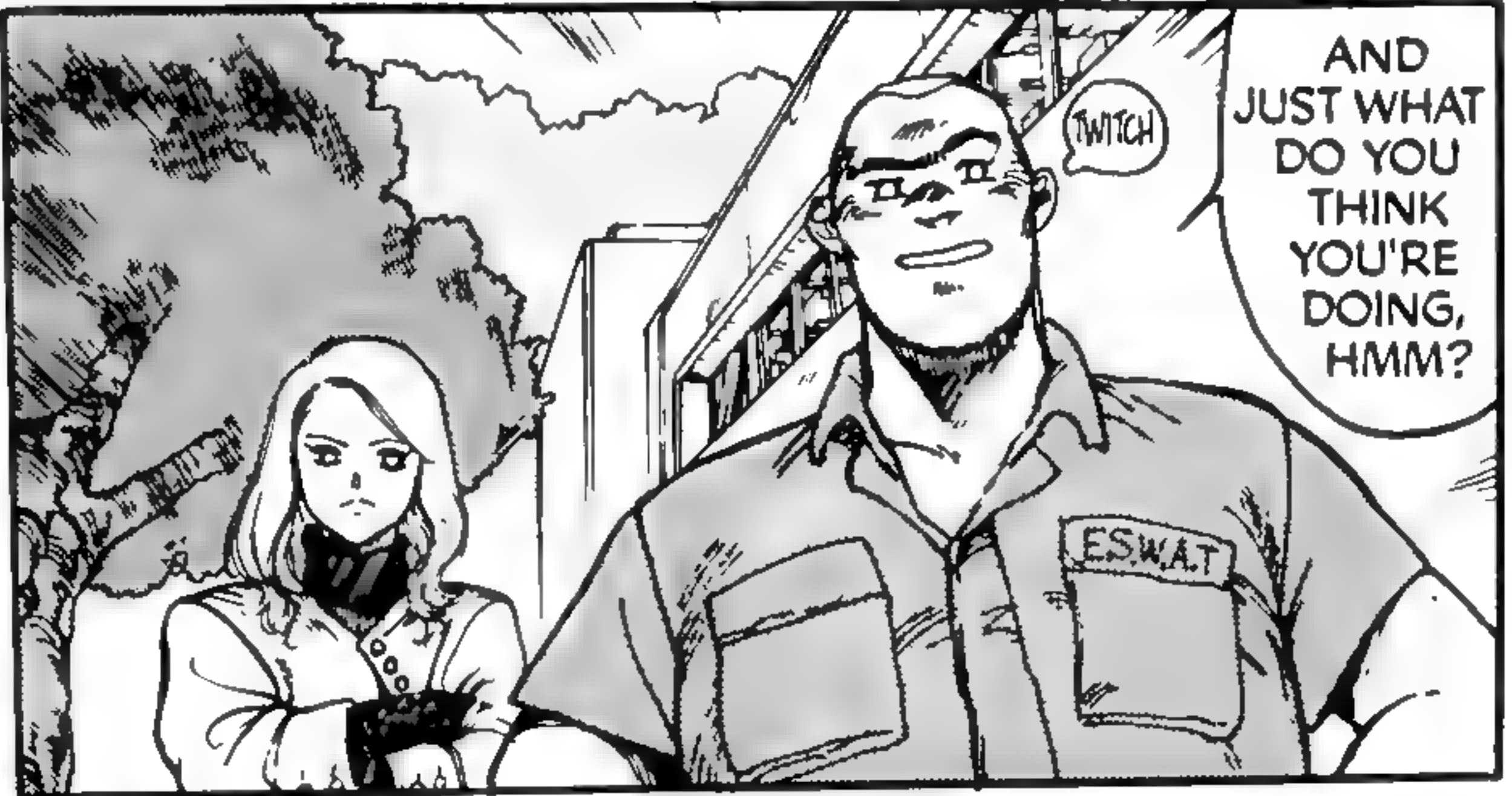
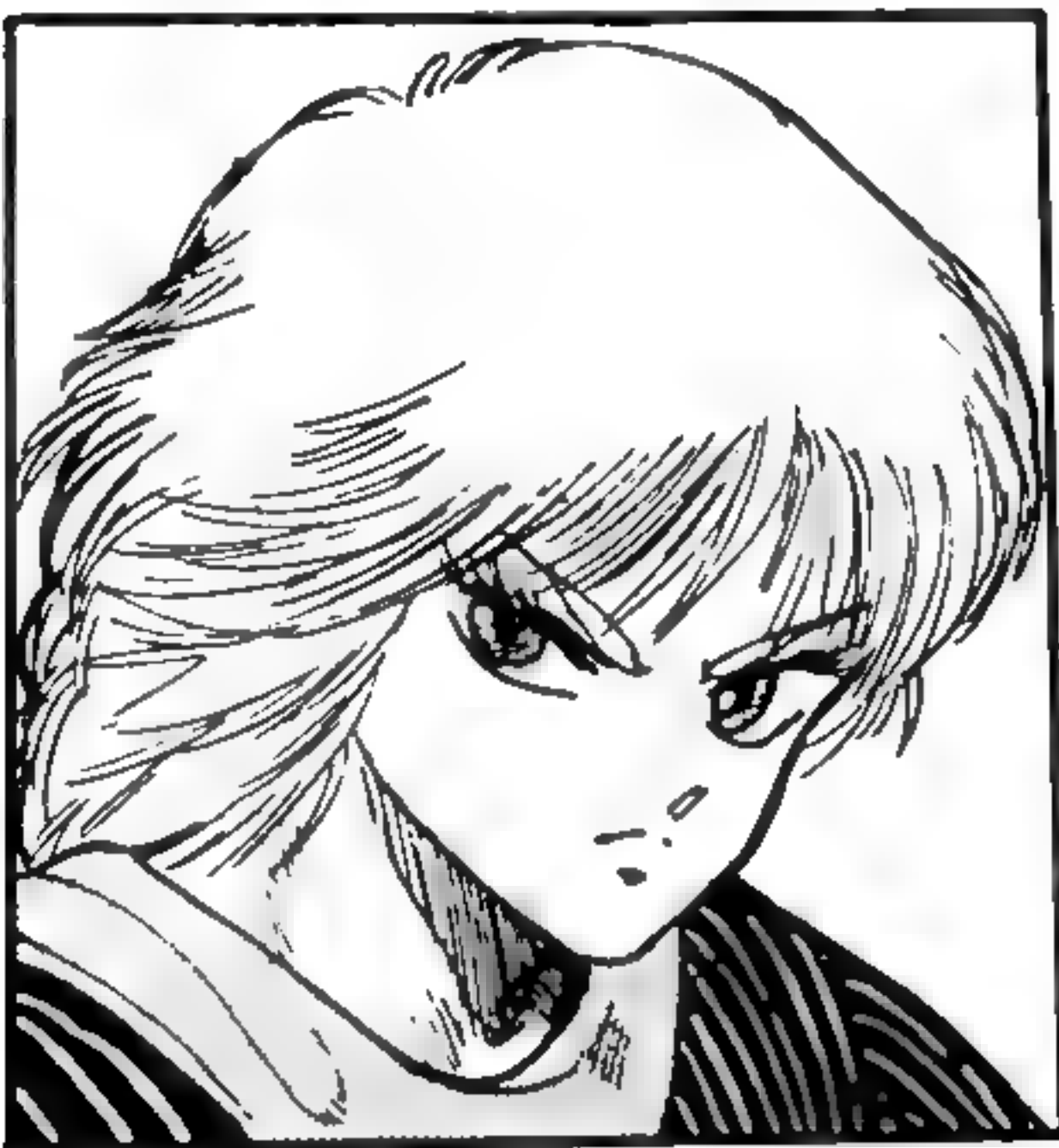
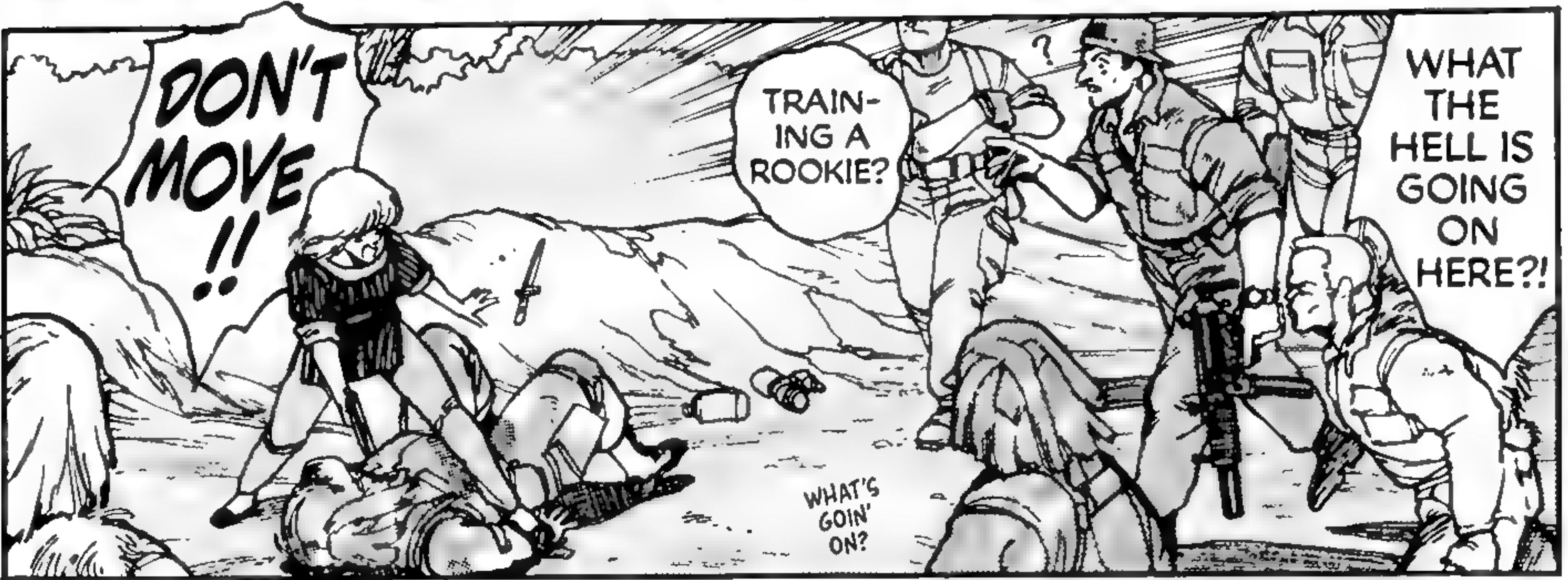
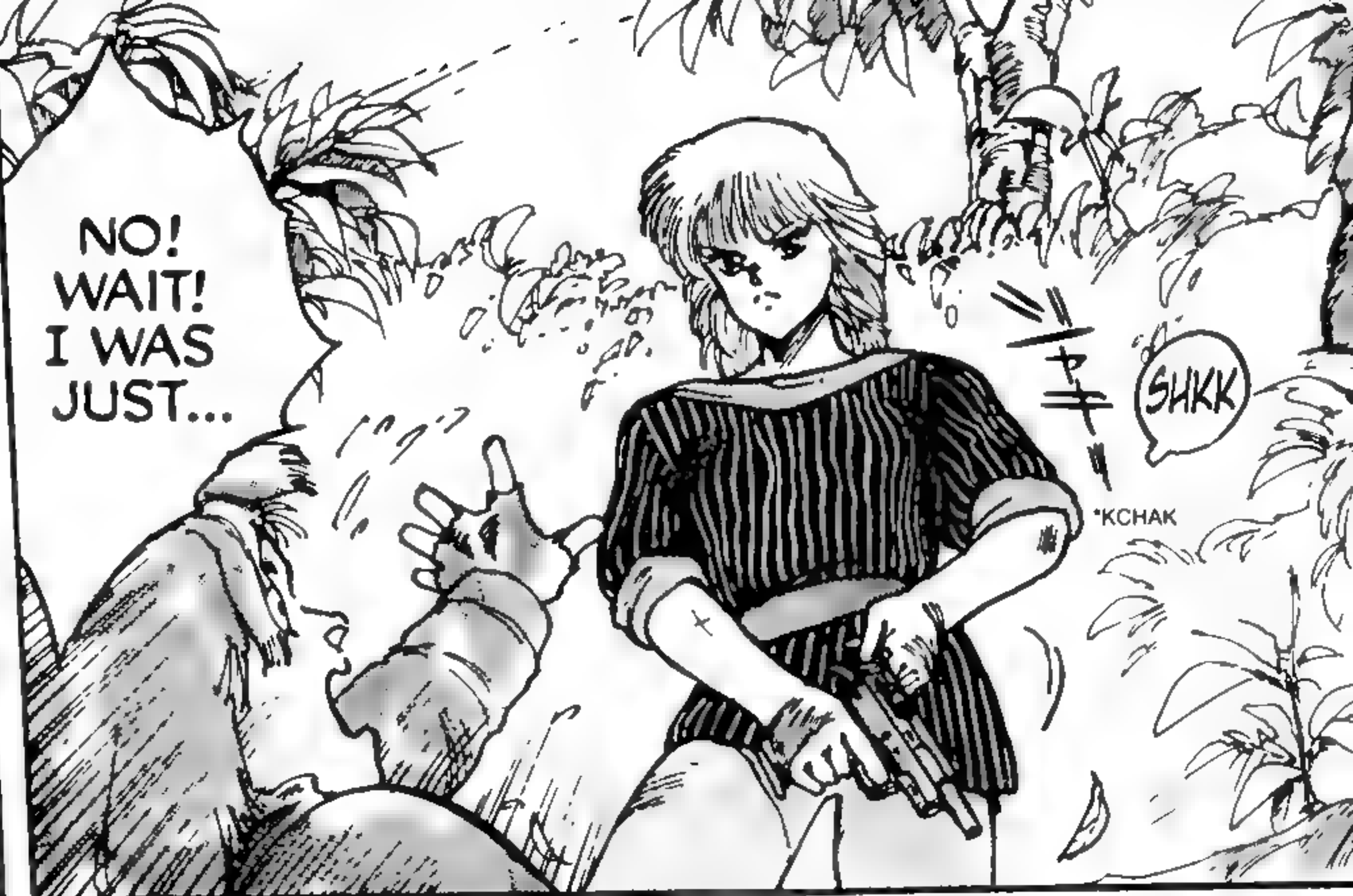


HUH?



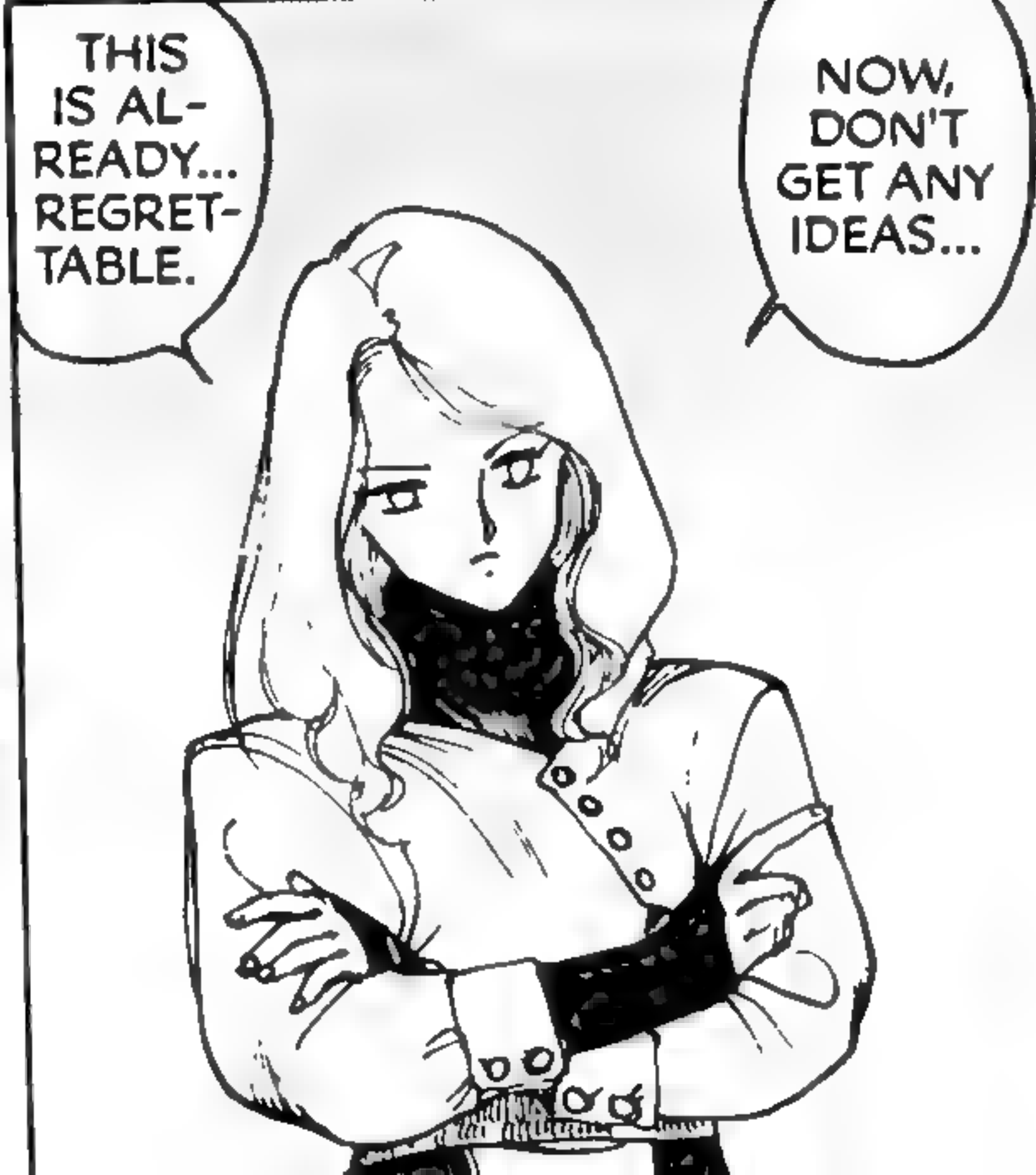


\*FX POK \*FX KRAK KRAK KRAK

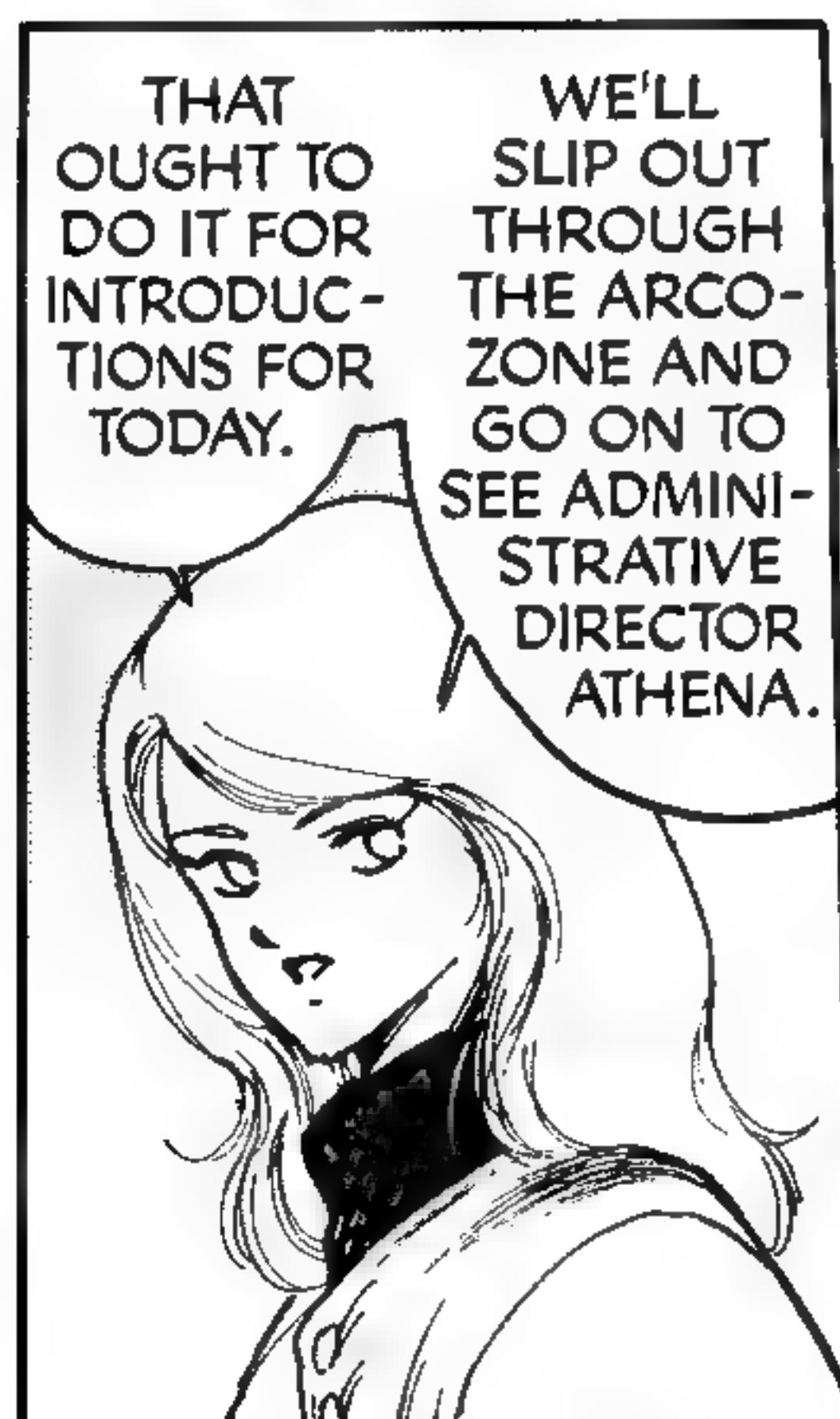
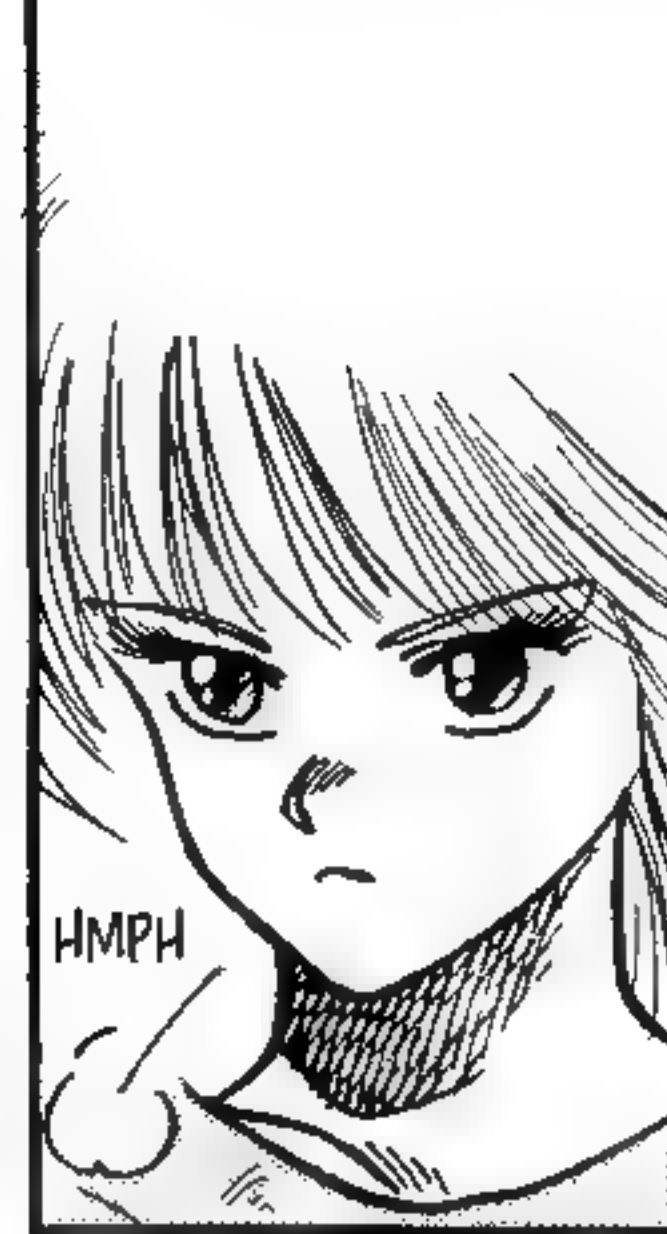
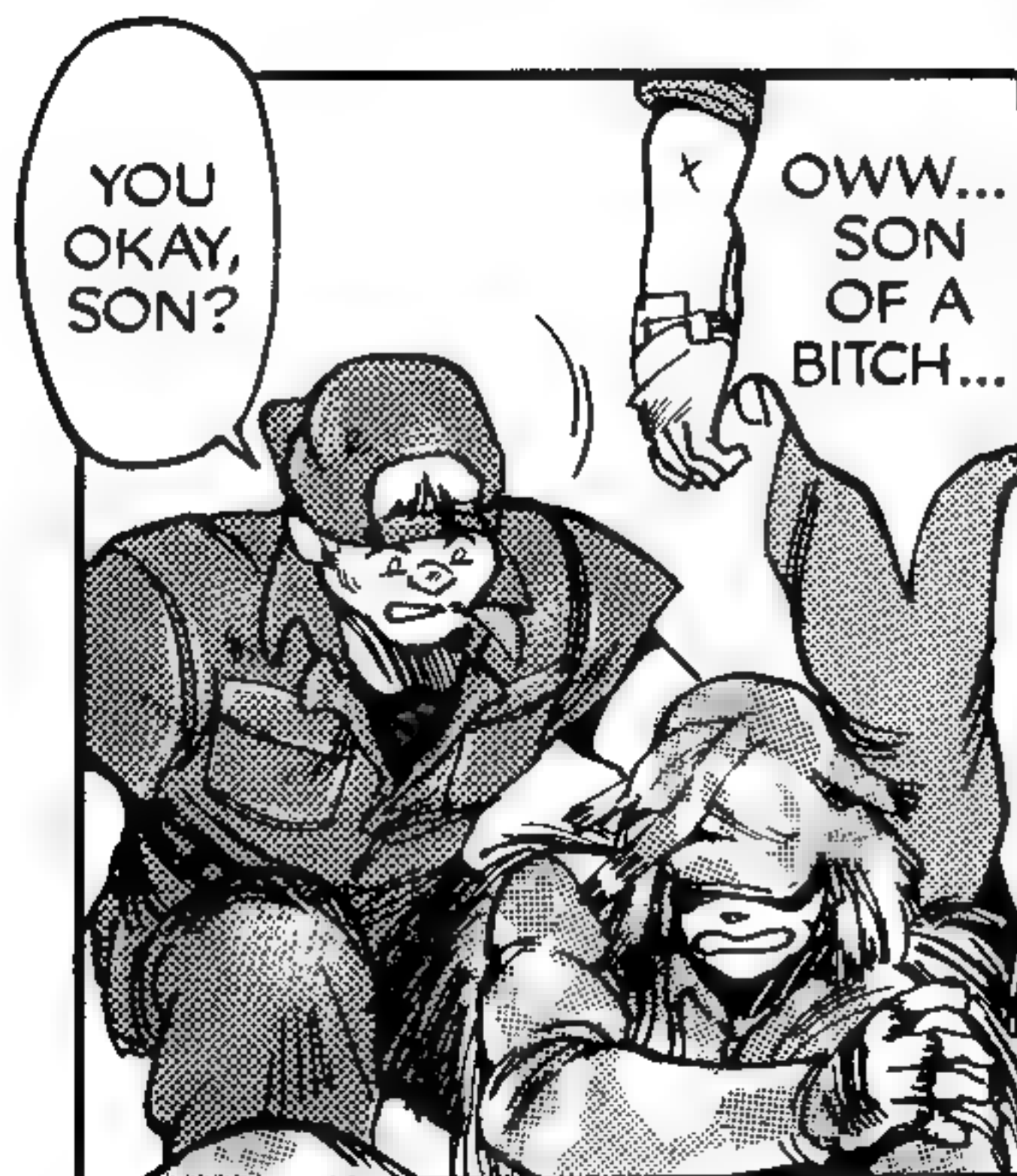


\*FX ZAI

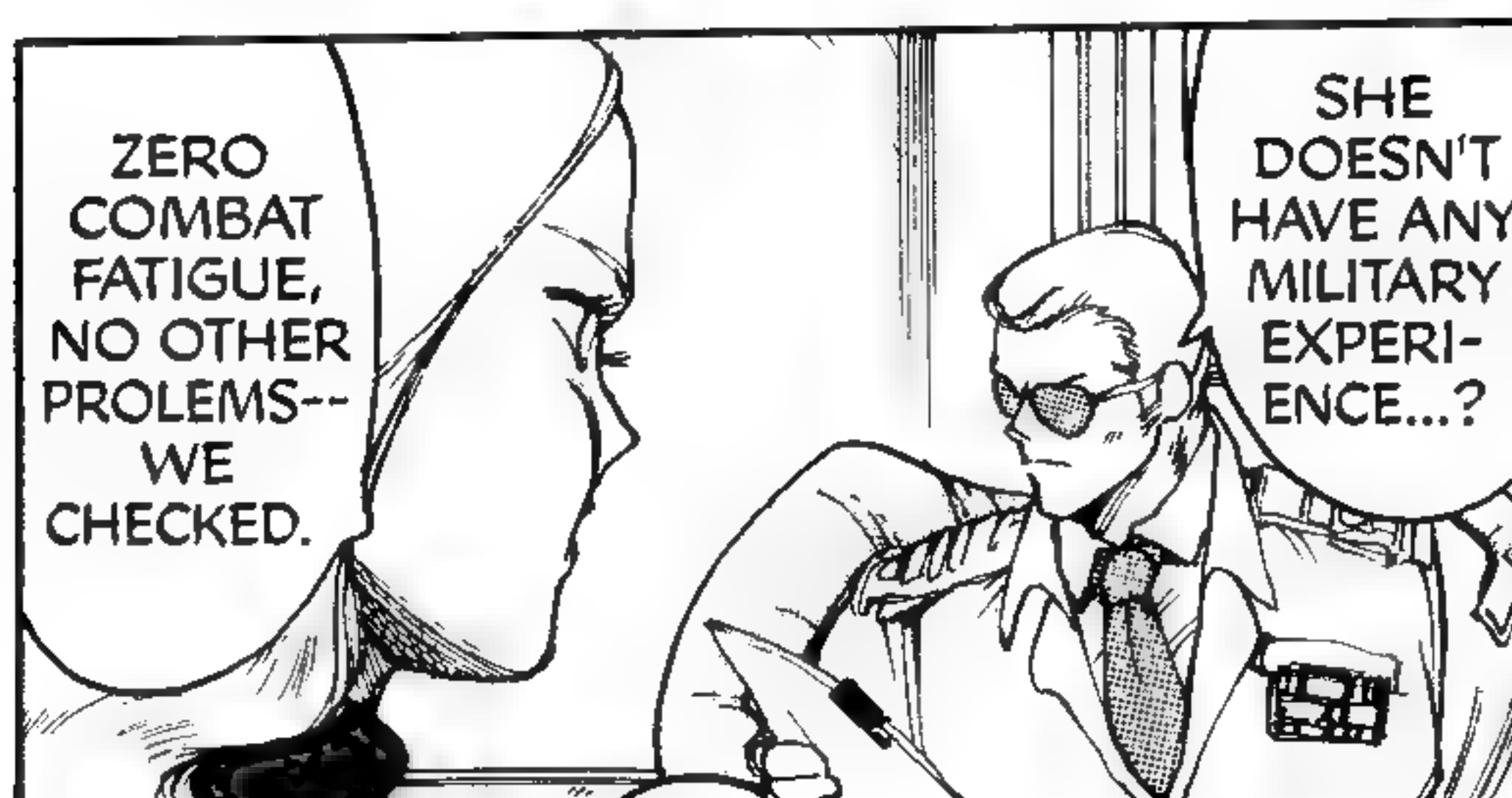
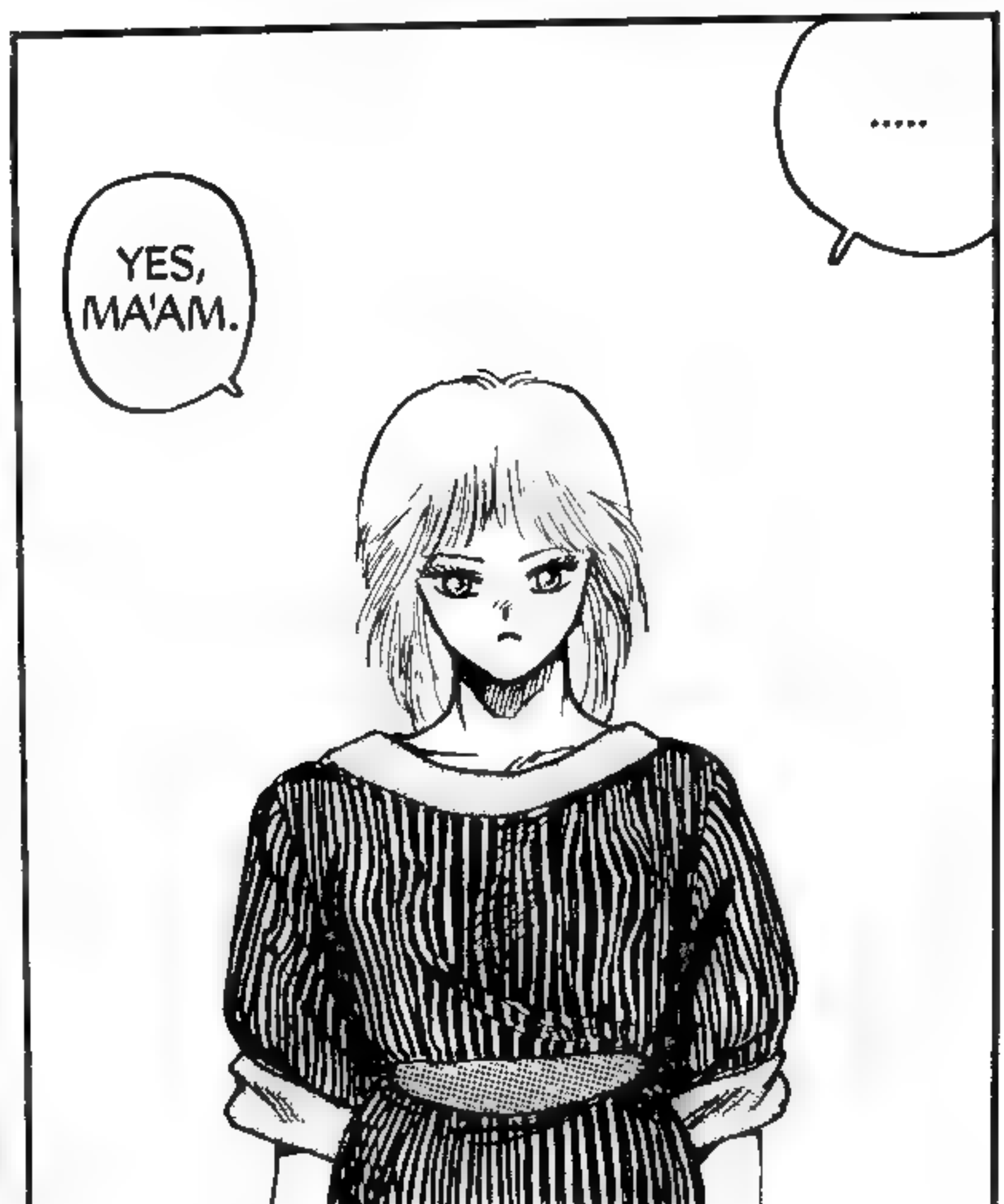
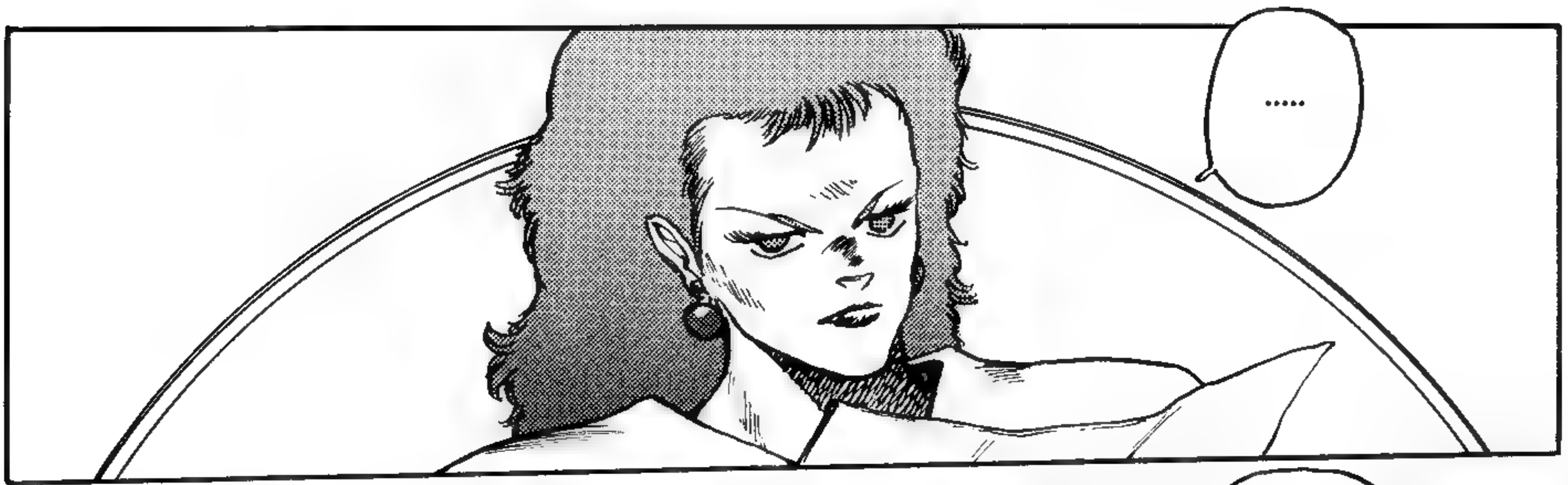
\*FX SHF SHF



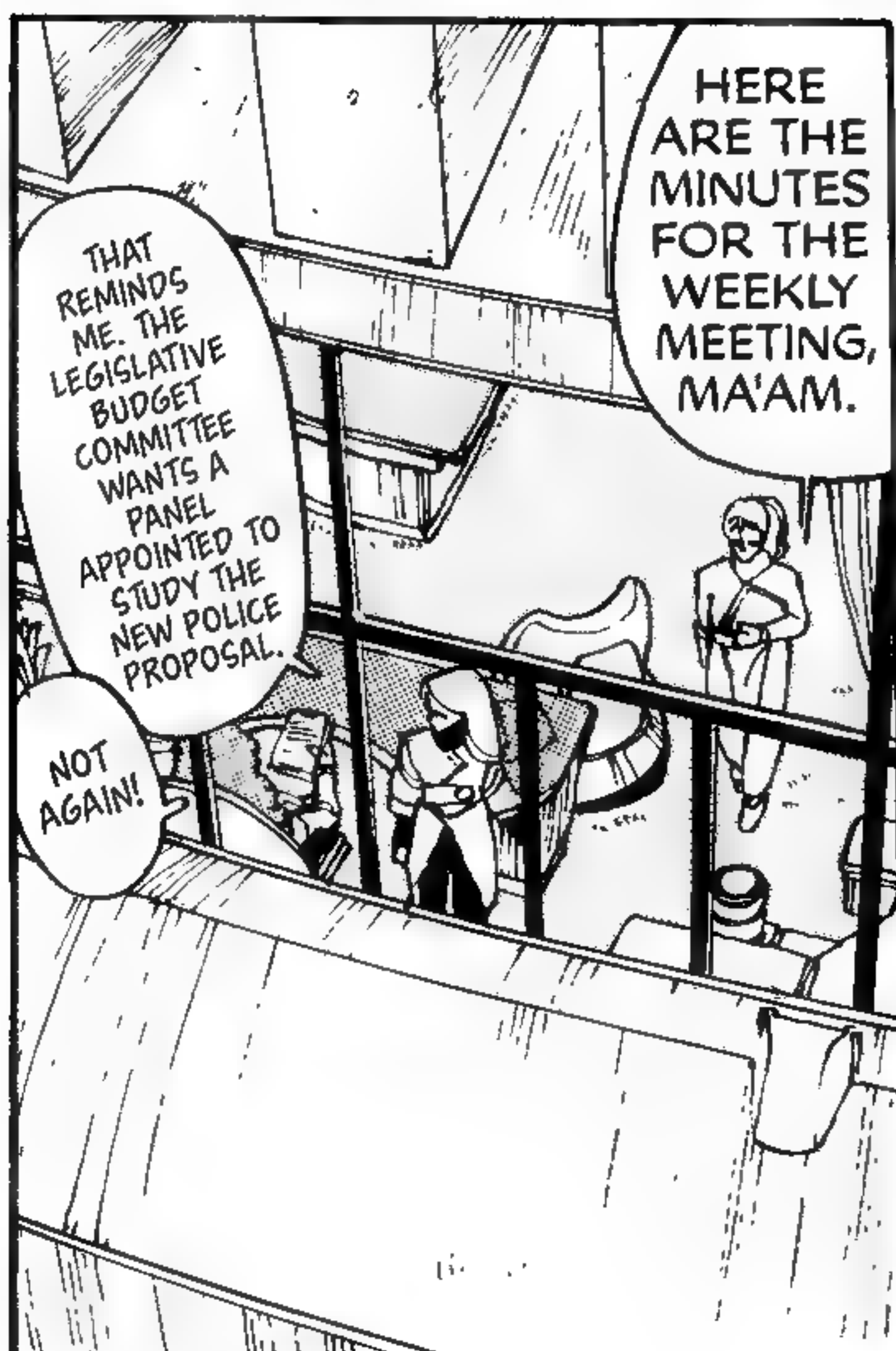
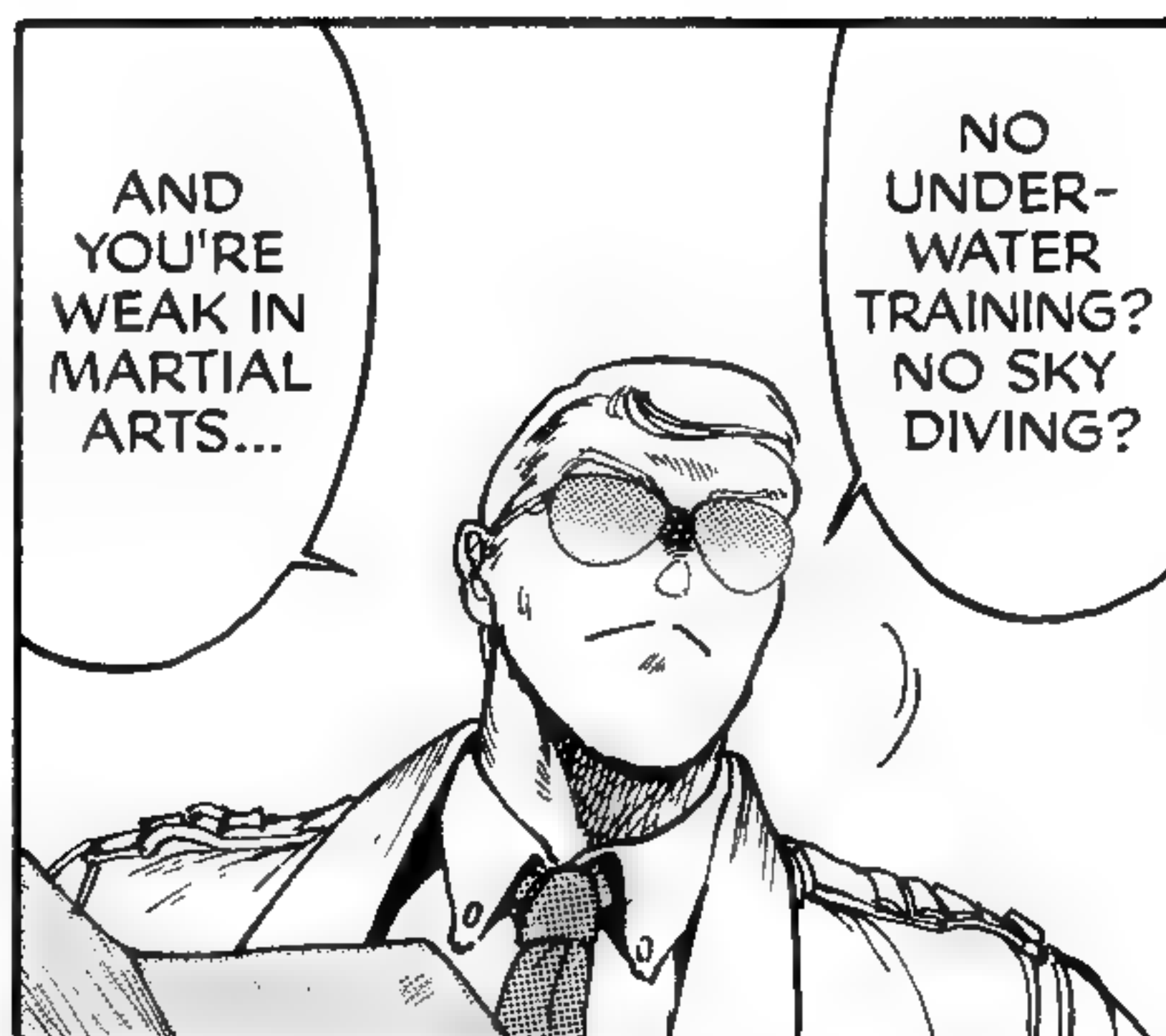




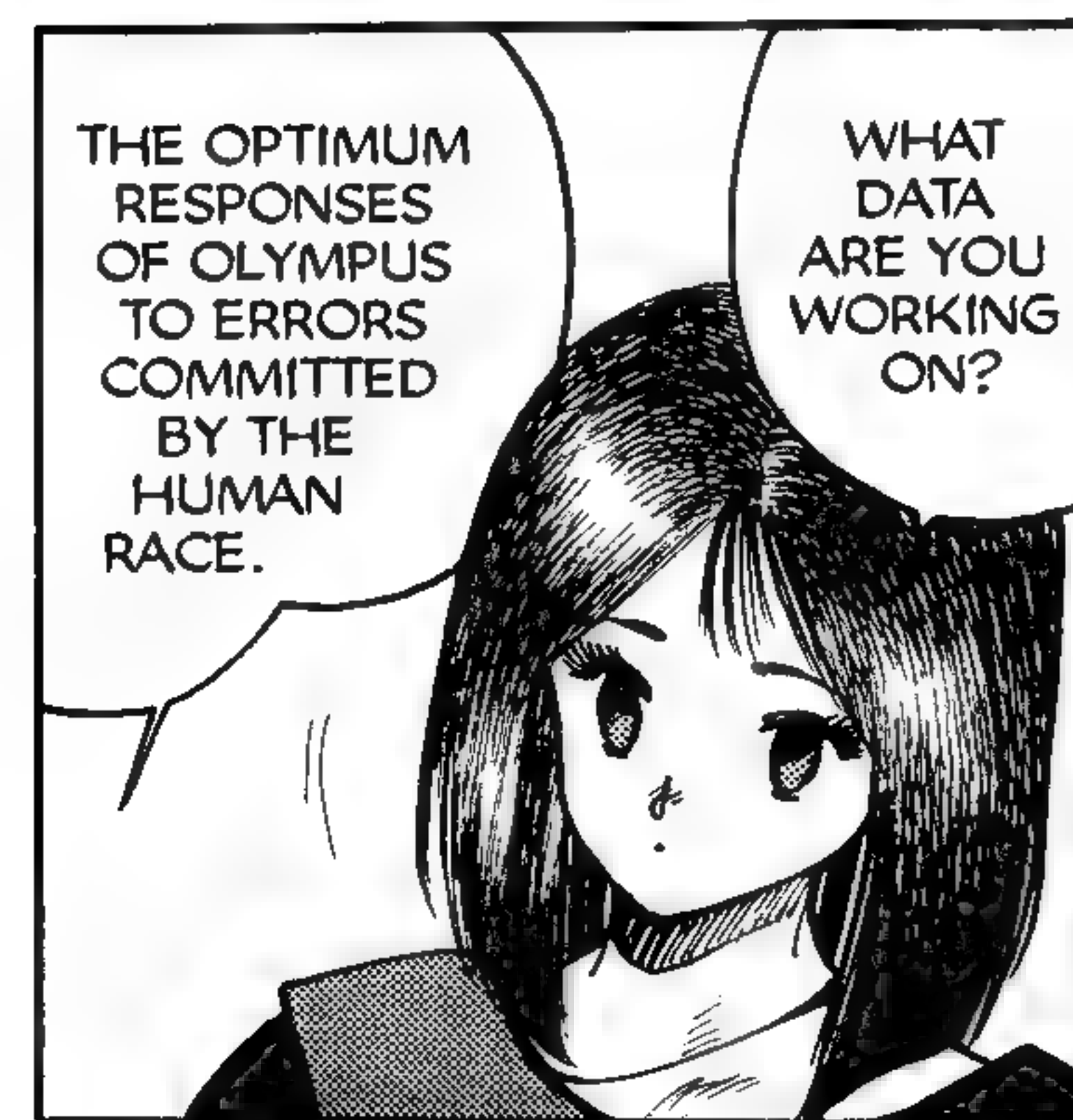
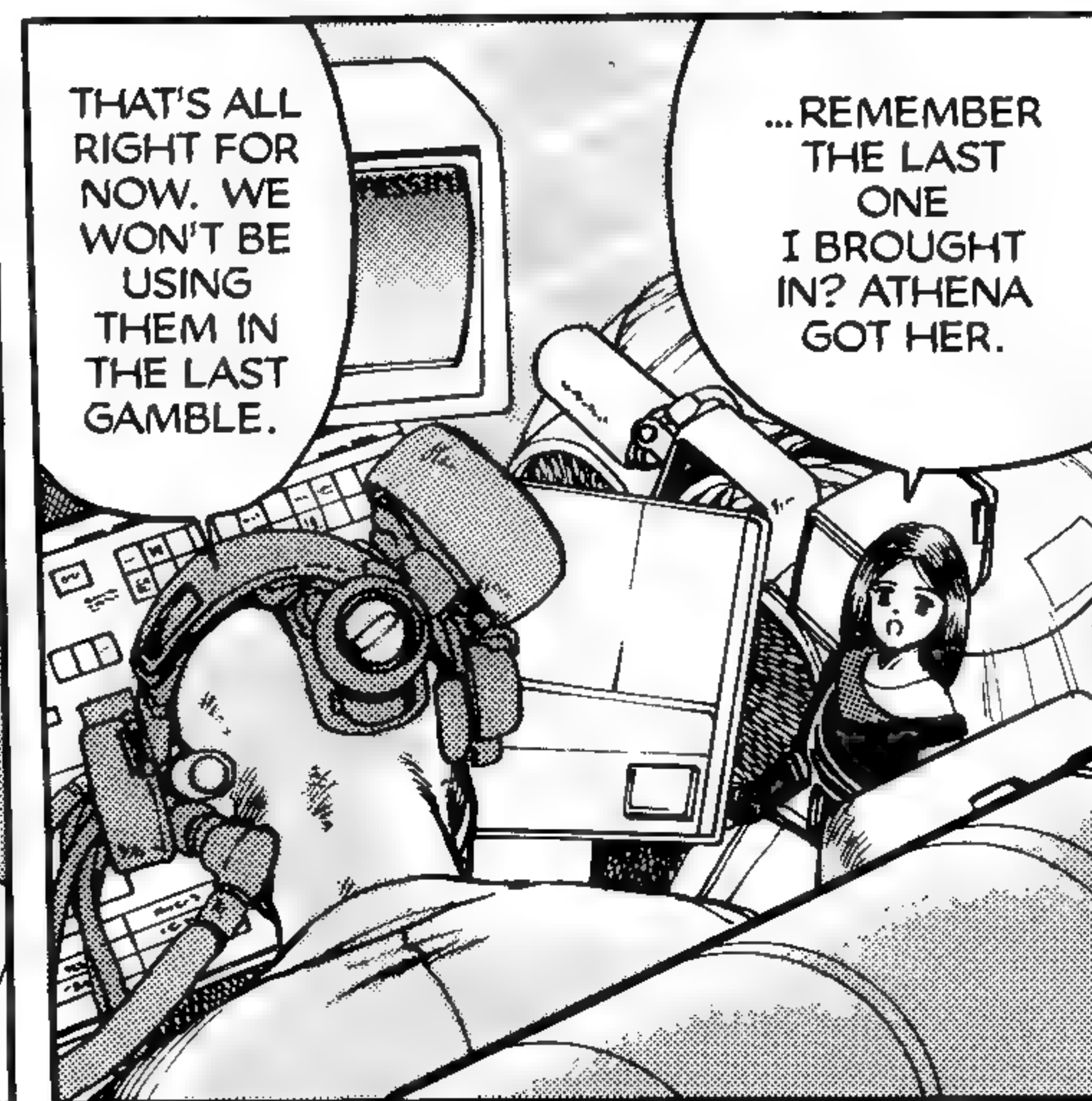
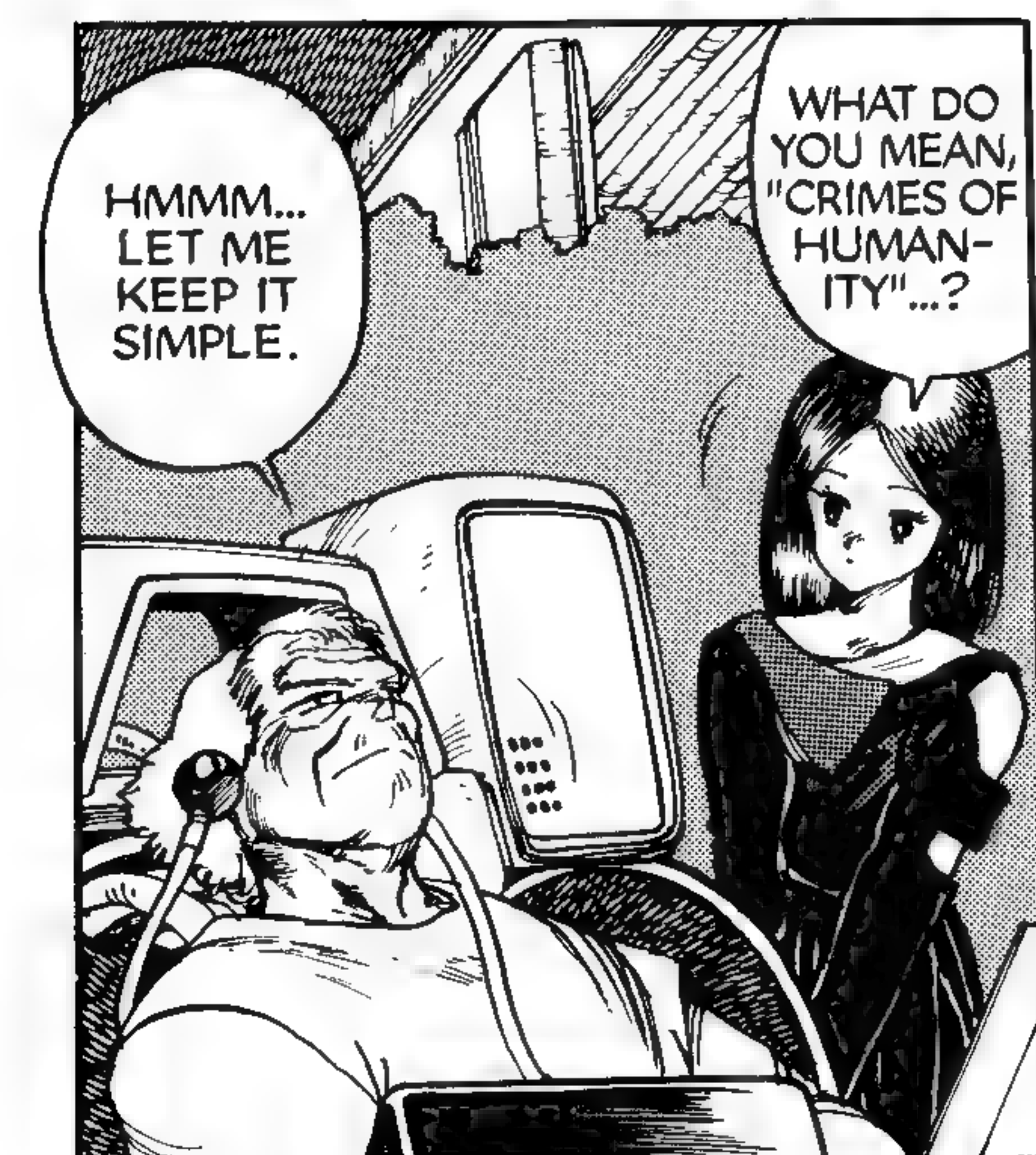
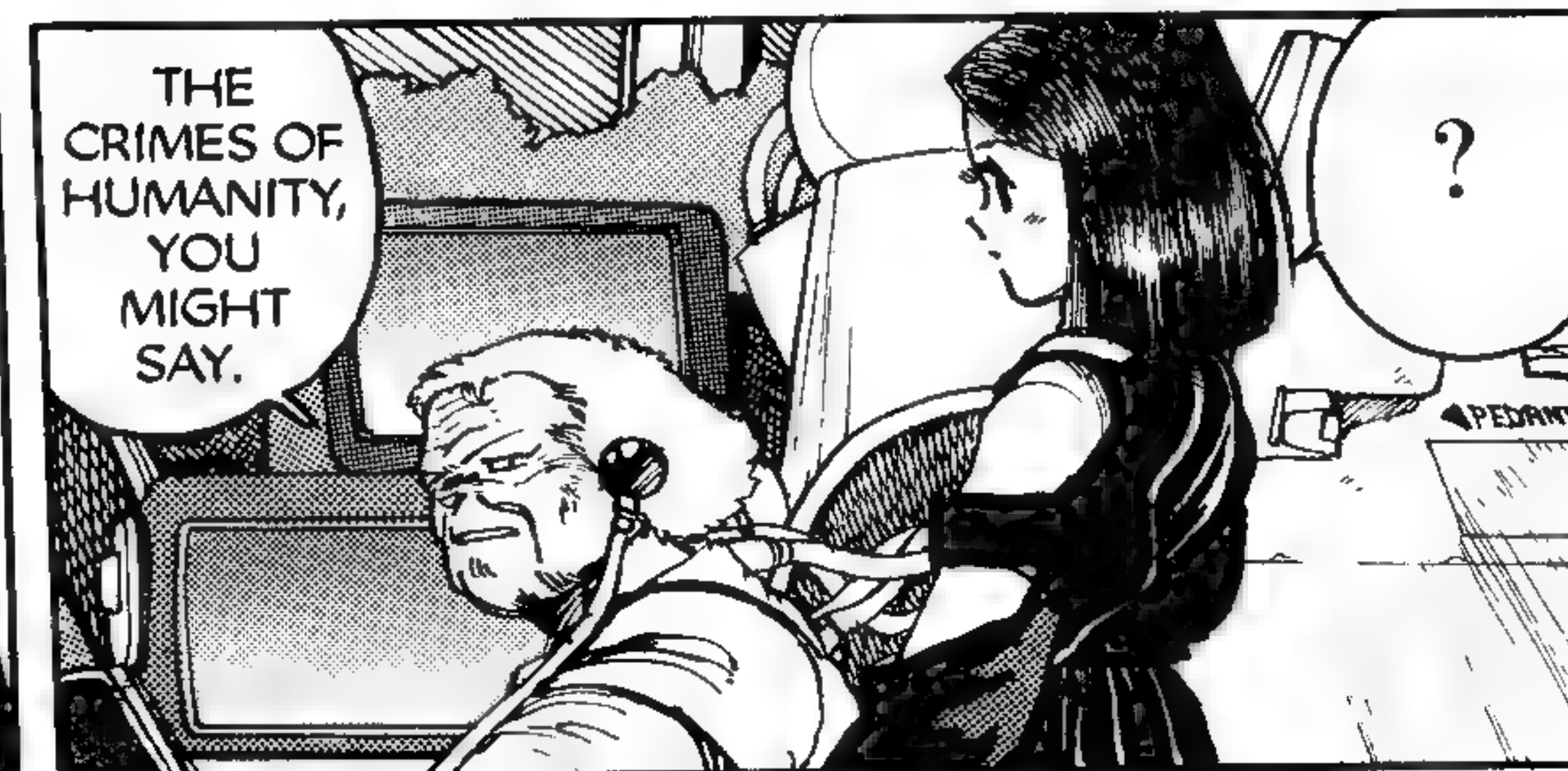
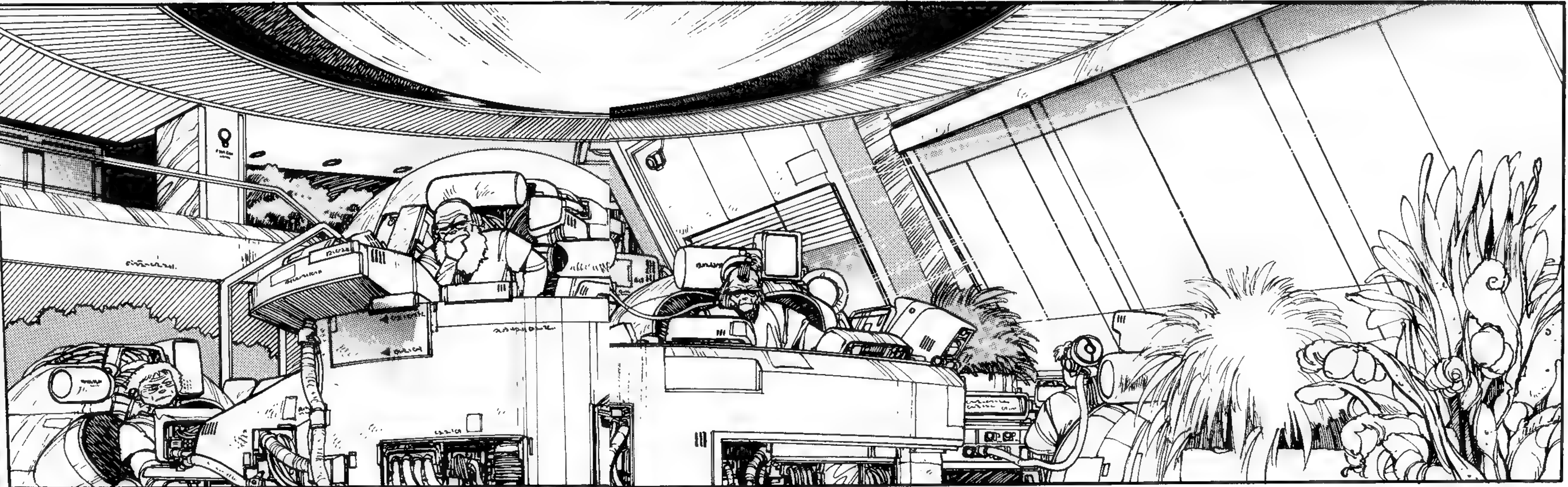




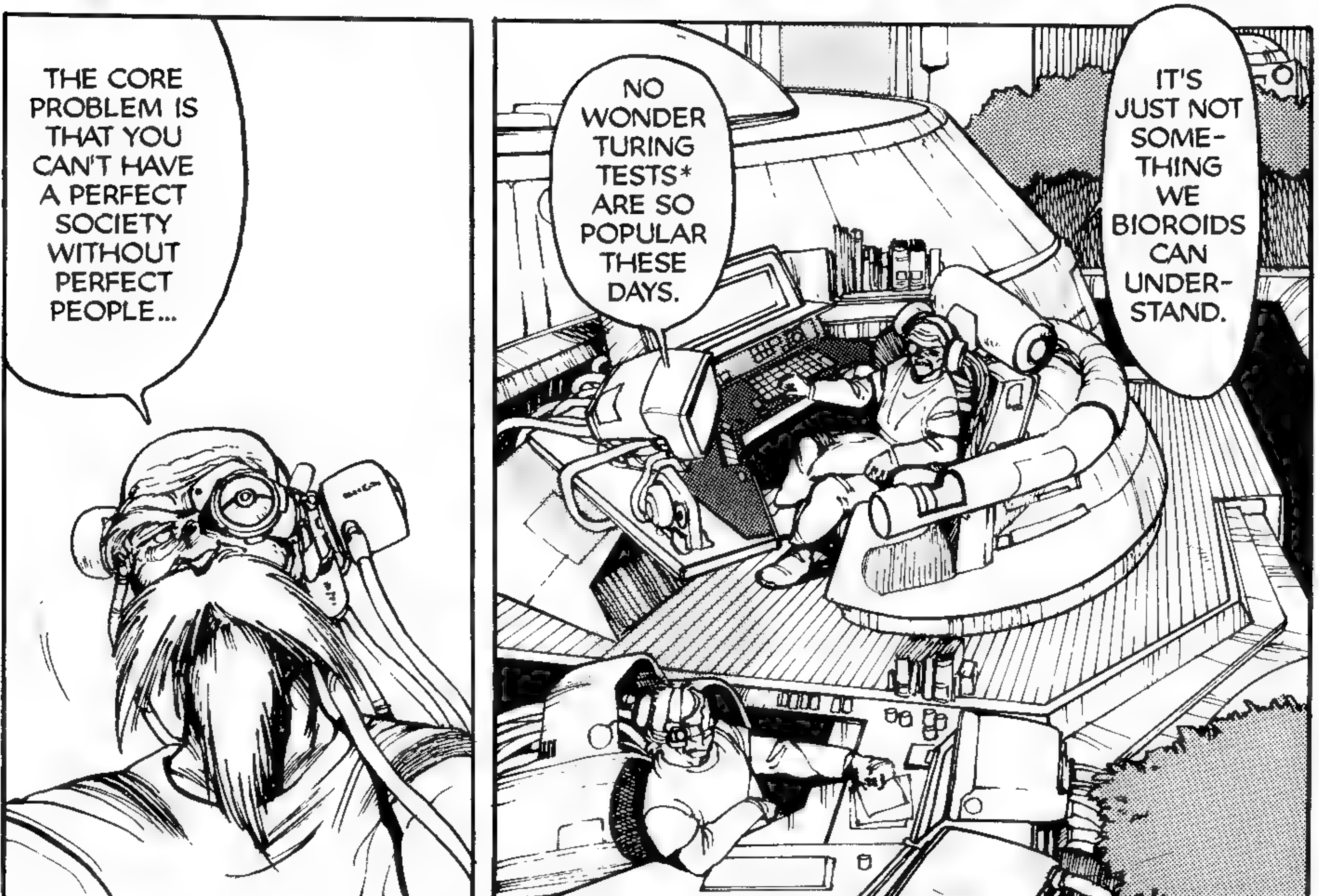
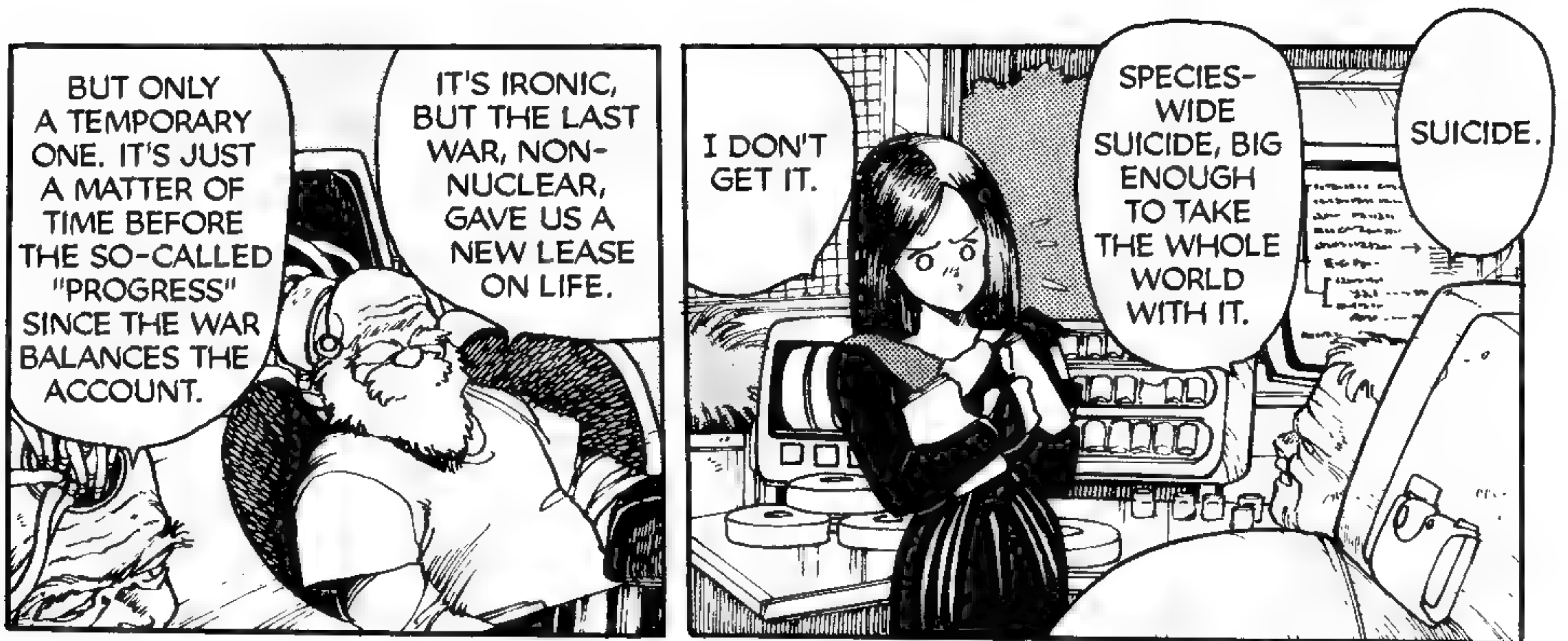






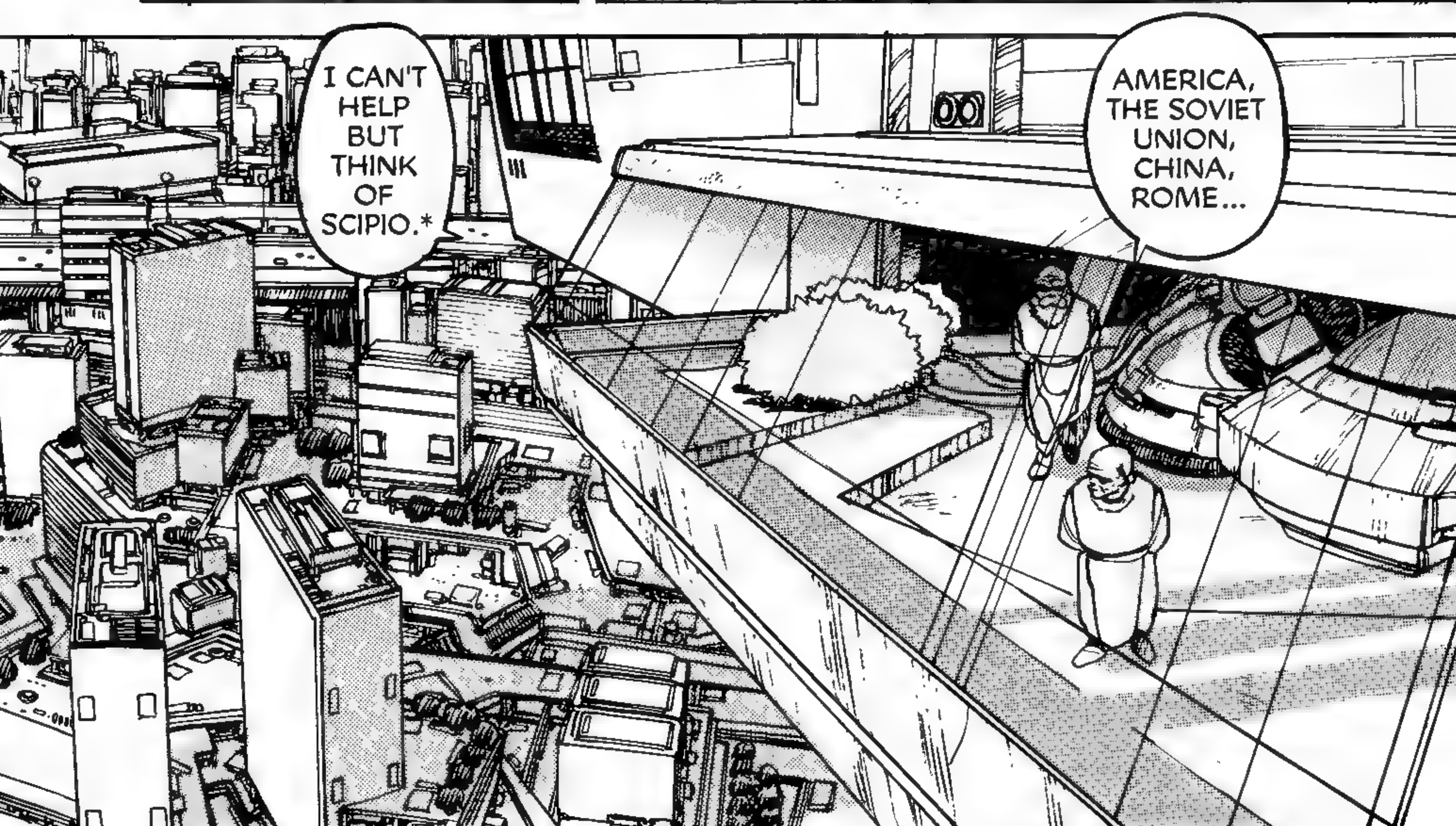
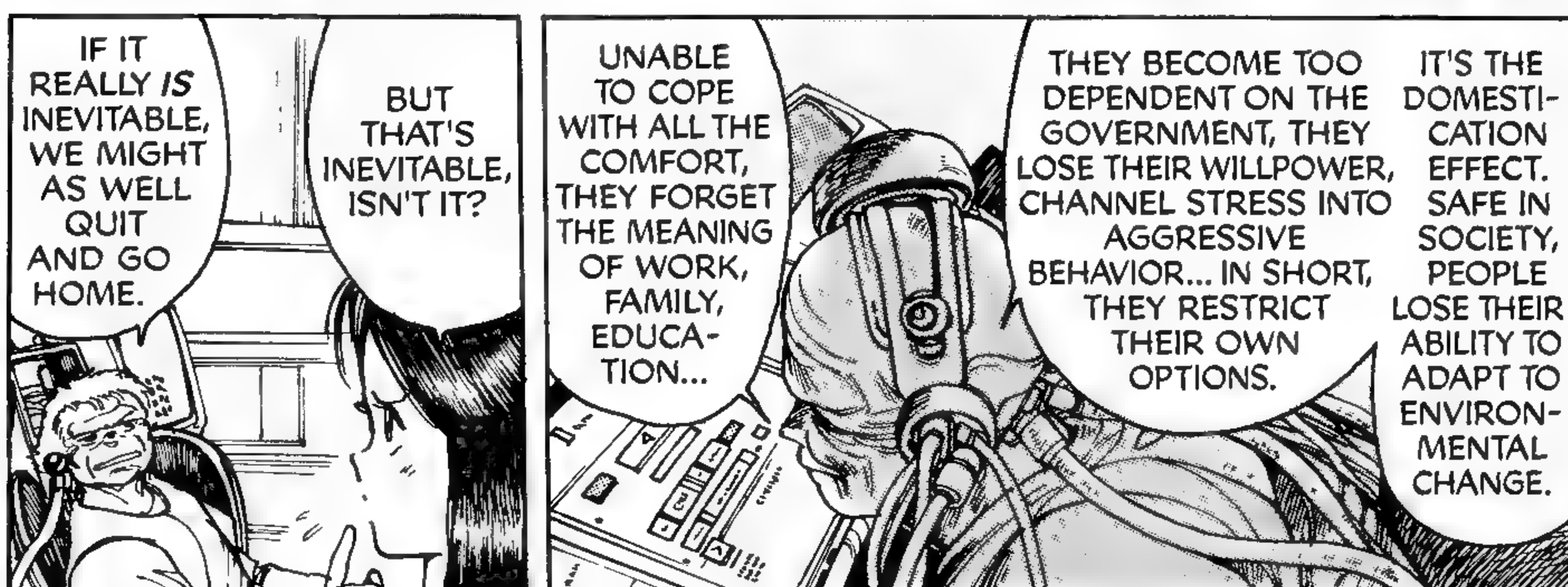






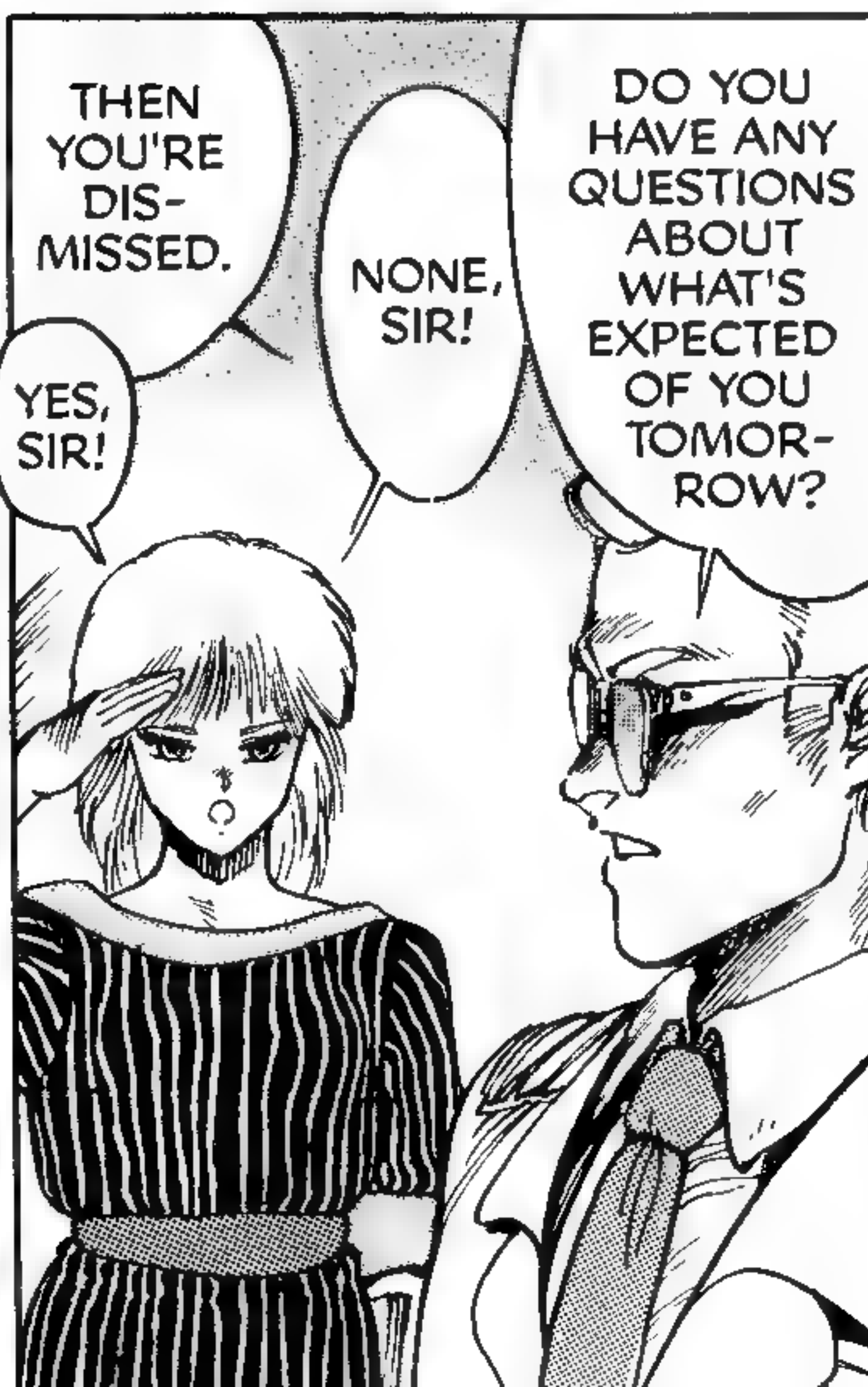
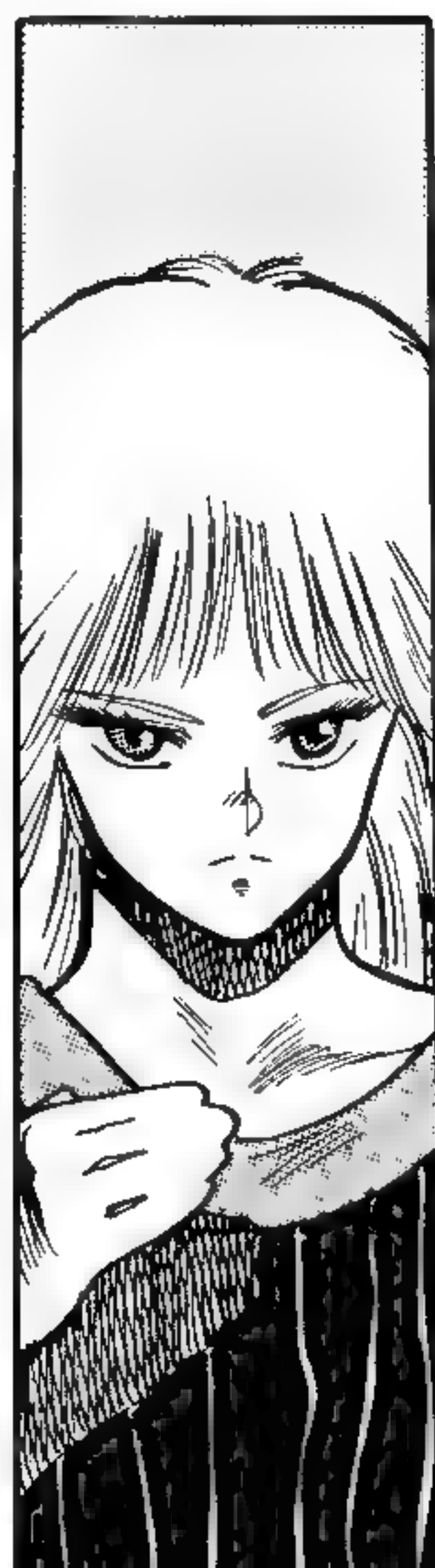
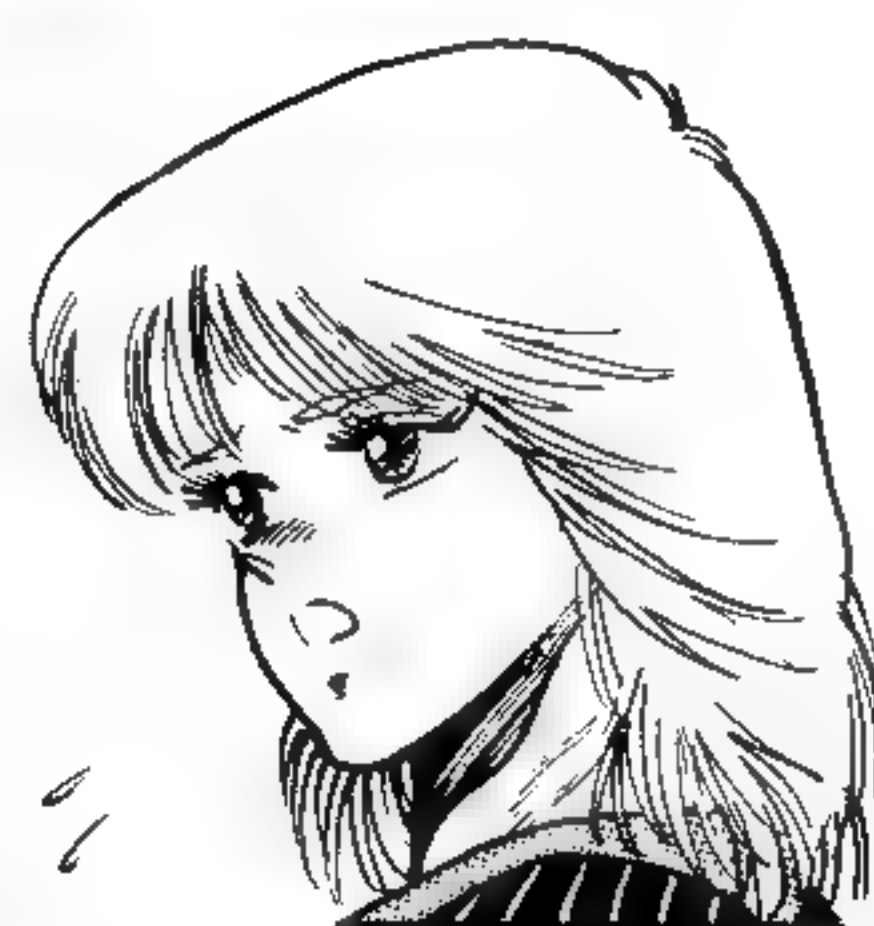
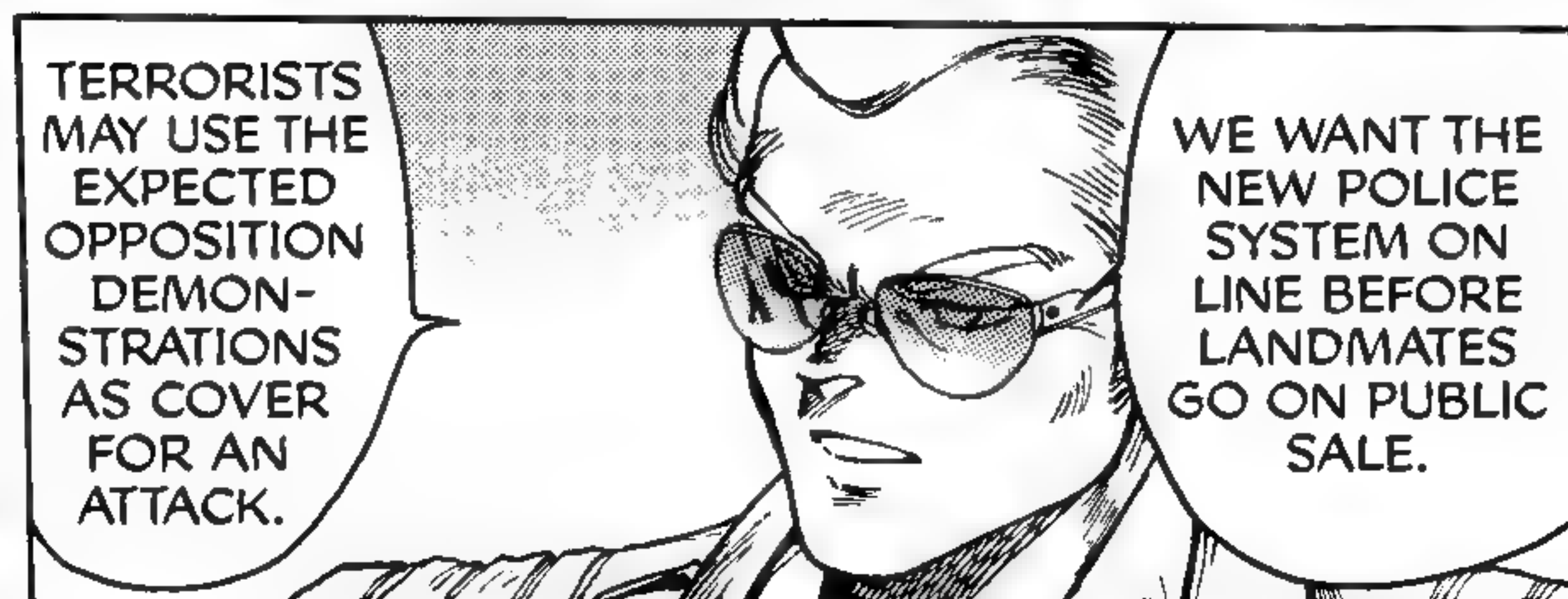
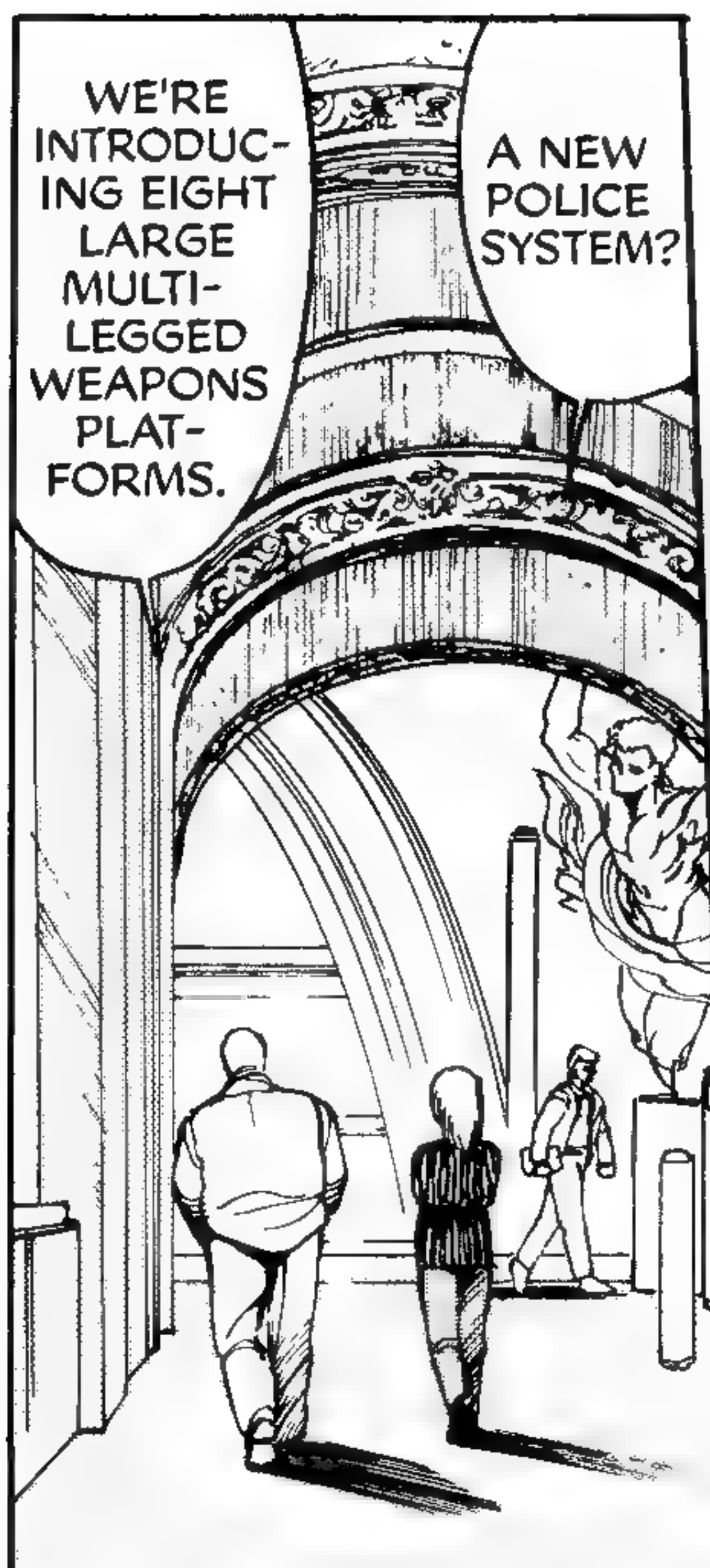
\*Turing tests: developed by the British mathematician Alan Matheson Turing. A test using carefully designed questions to distinguish between computer programming logic and human thought processes.



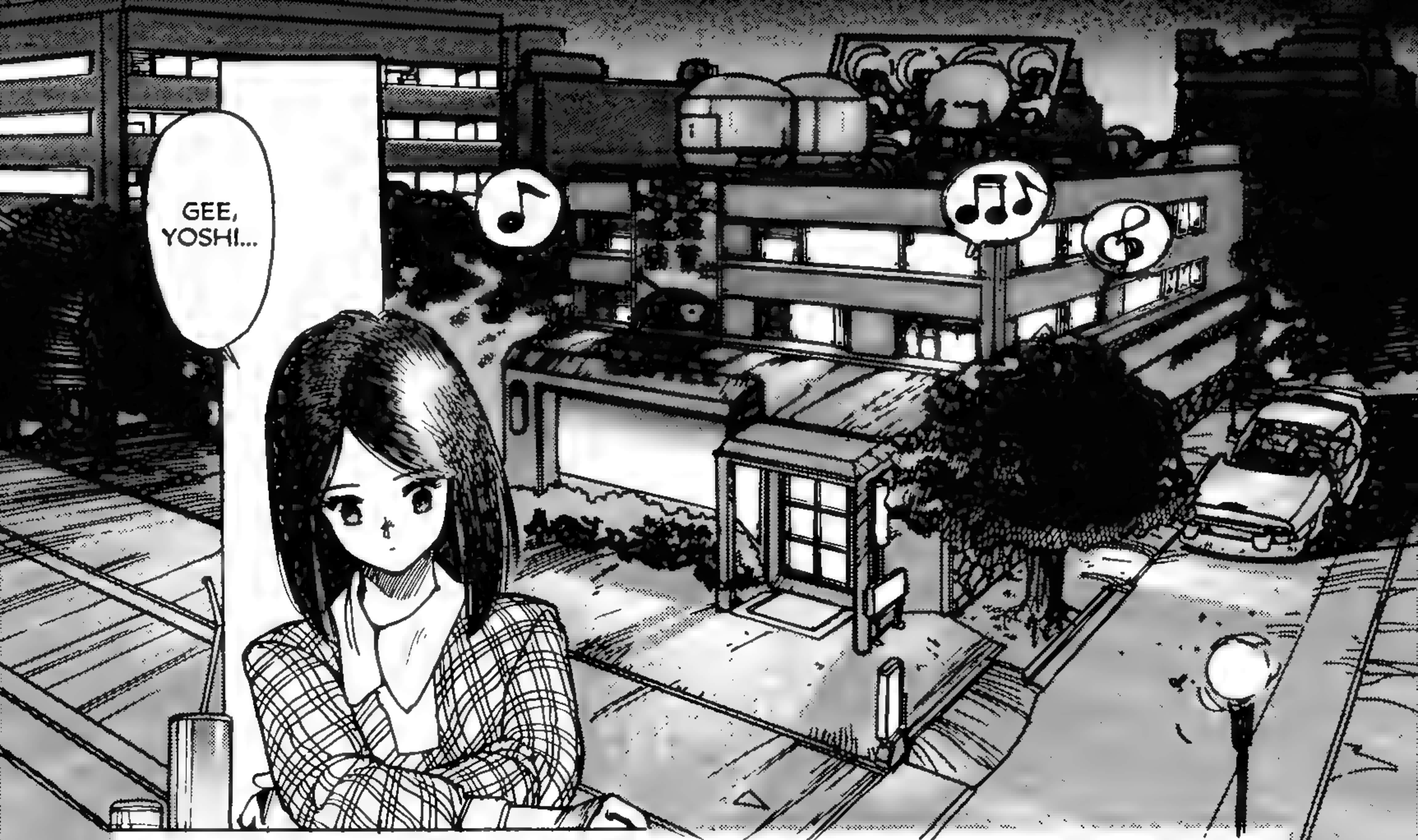


\*Scipio (the elder): the famous Roman general. Upon seeing Hannibal's Carthage in flames, he is said to have remarked, "And someday Rome."

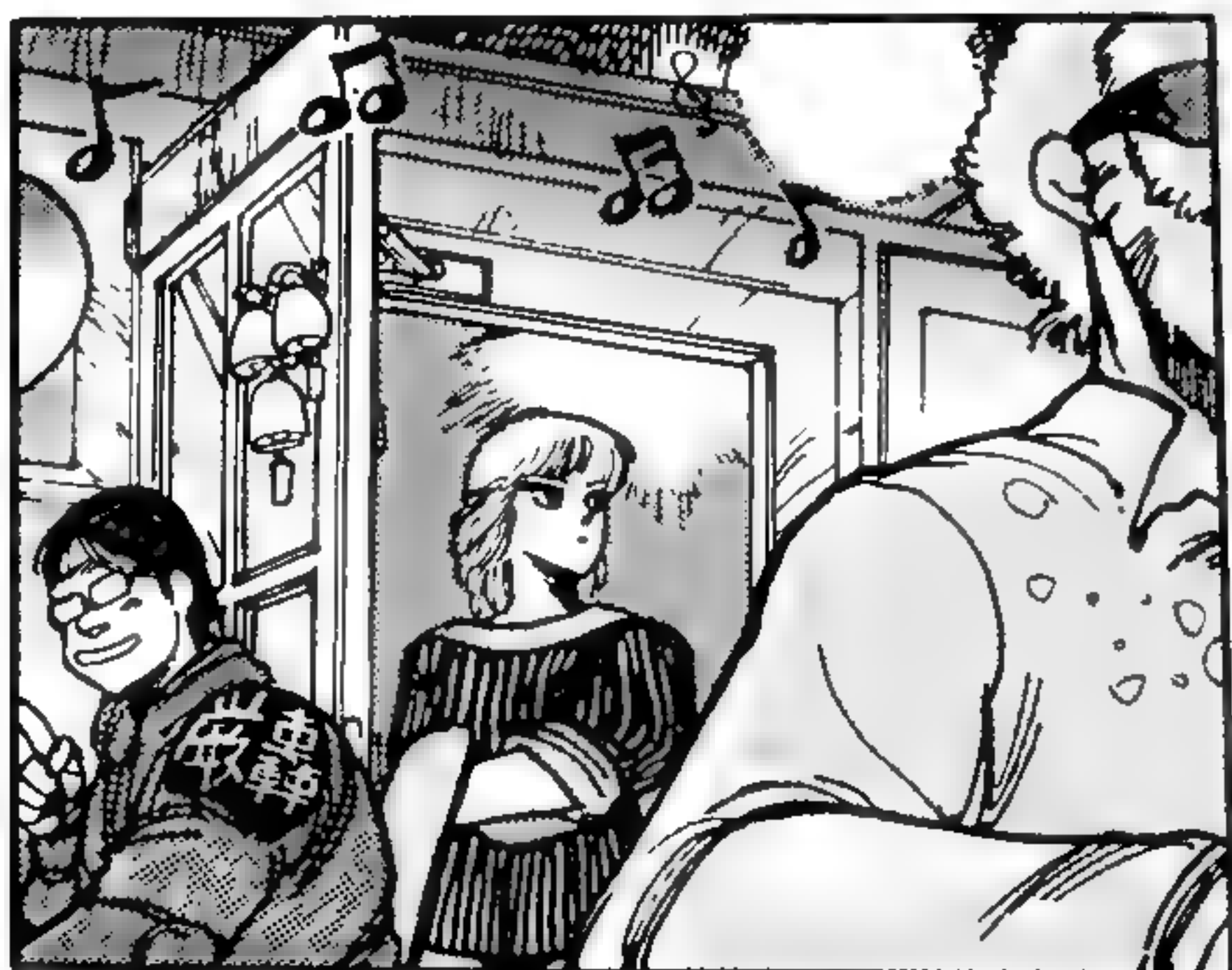






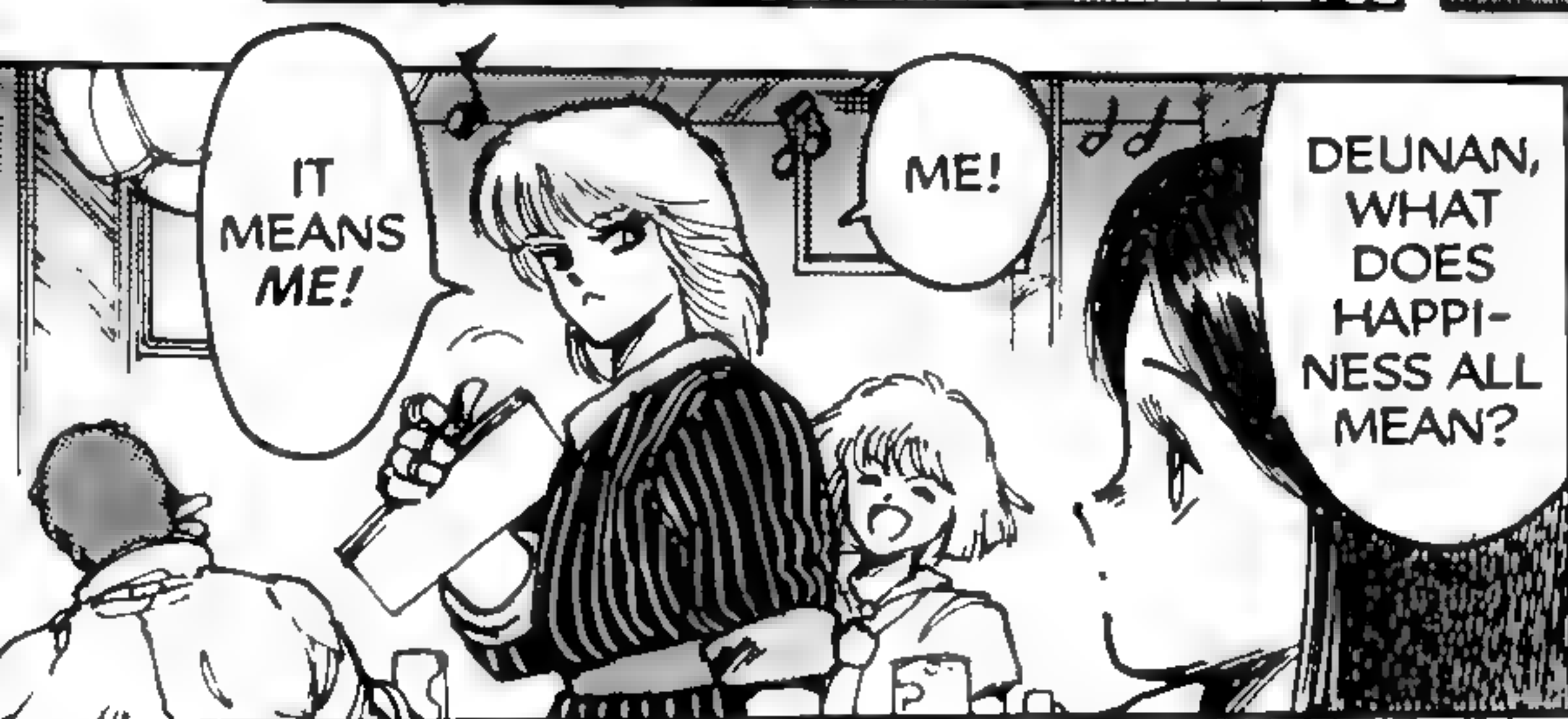


GEE,  
YOSHI...



HUH?  
HAPPI-  
NESS??

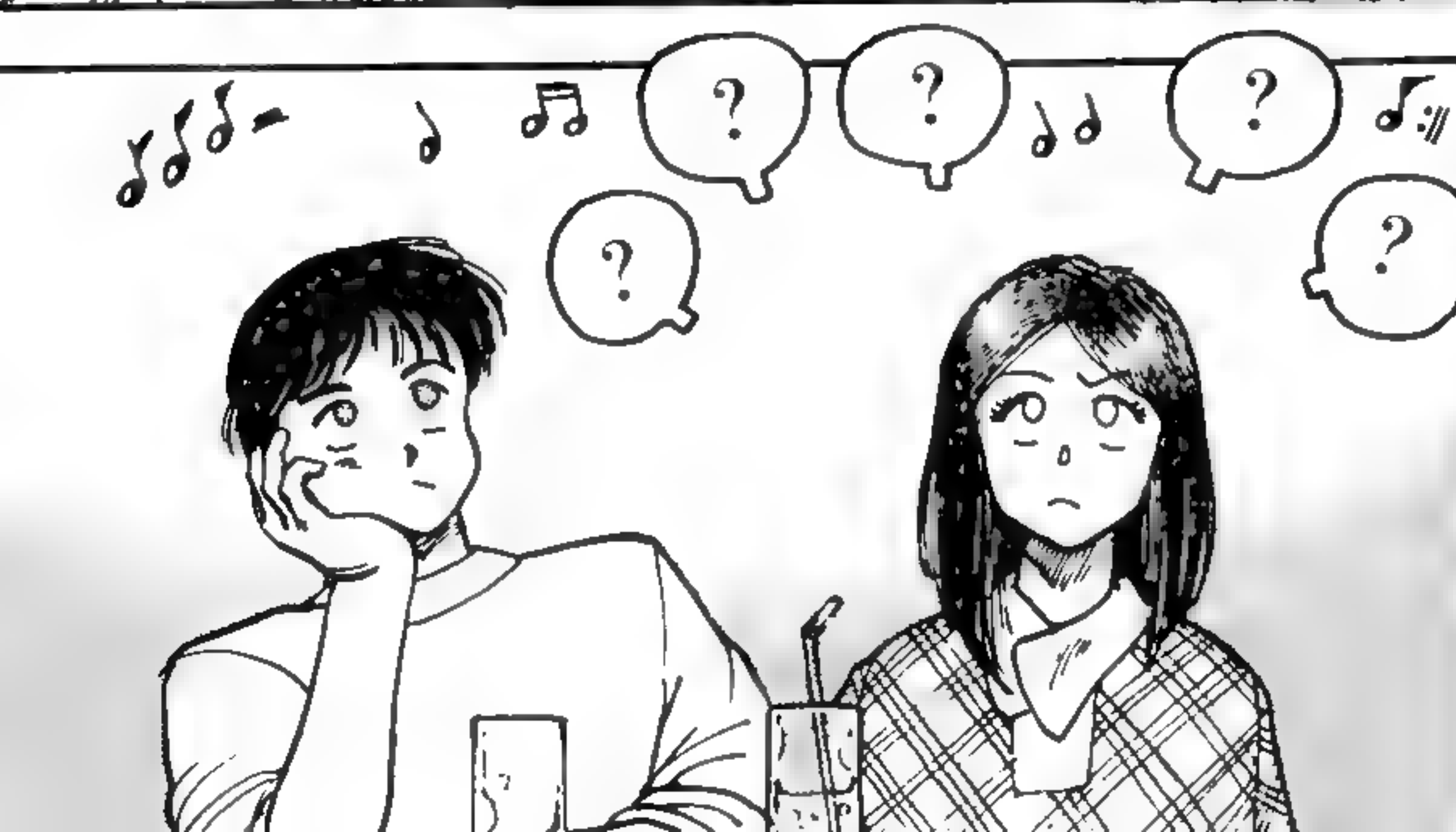
DO YOU  
THINK OUR  
SENSE OF  
HAPPINESS  
IS "DISTOR-  
TED"...?



IT  
MEANS  
ME!

ME!

DEUNAN,  
WHAT  
DOES  
HAPPI-  
NESS ALL  
MEAN?

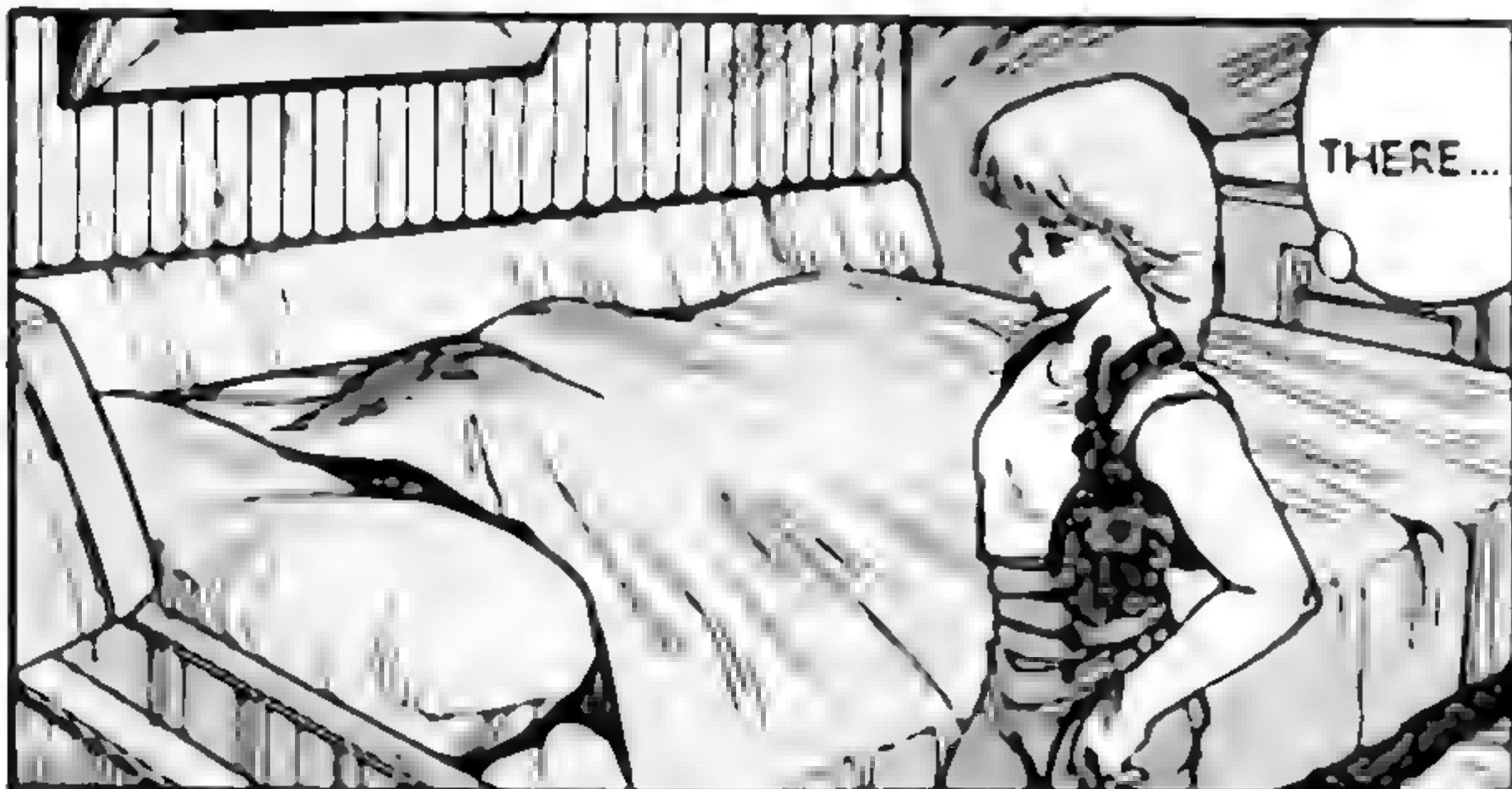
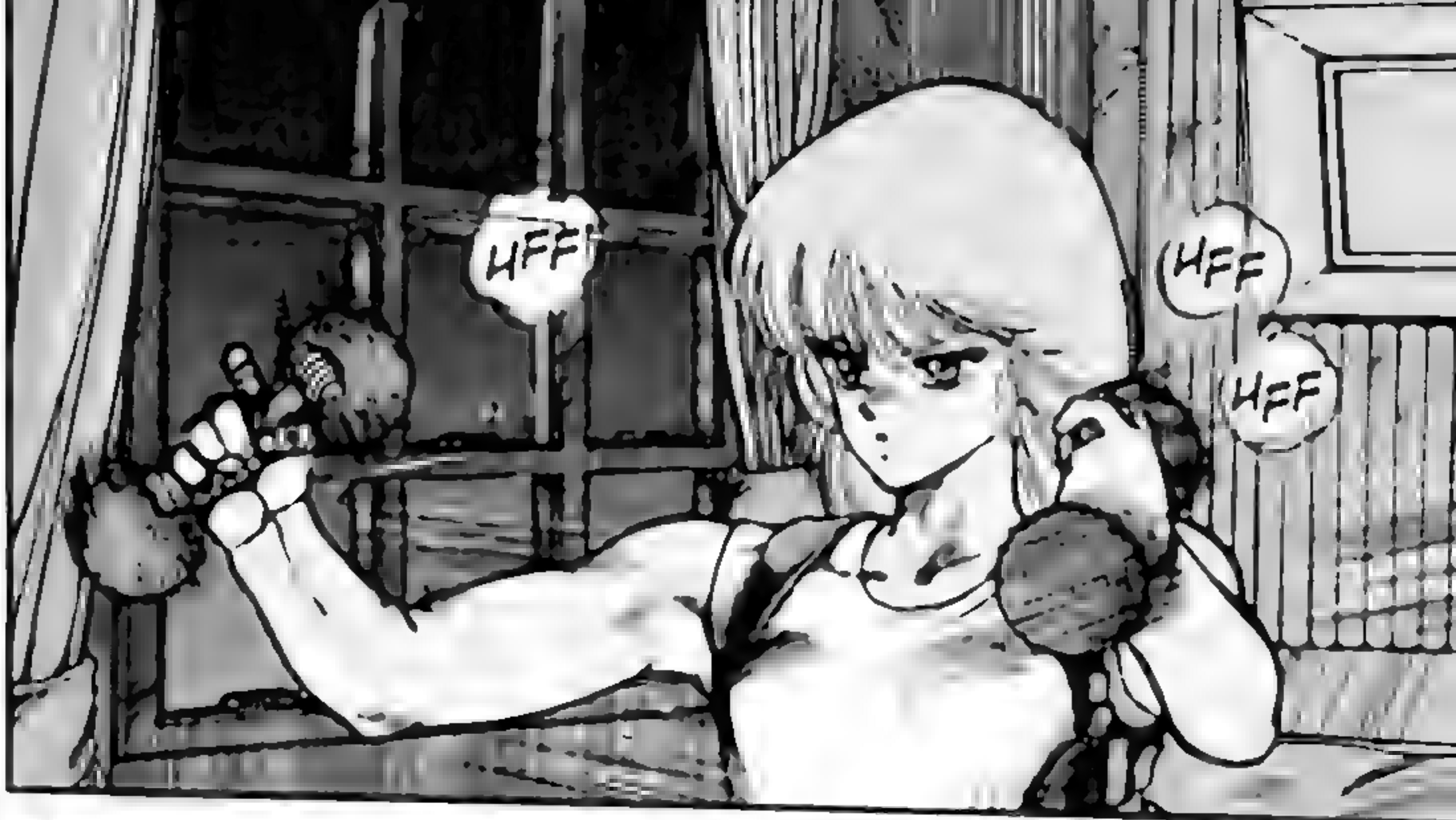


SORRY ABOUT  
THIS, BUT I'VE  
SET UP A BOOBY  
TRAP FOR  
BURGLARS IN MY  
ROOM. IF YOU  
WANT TO SEE ME,  
BETTER USE THE  
INTERCOM.

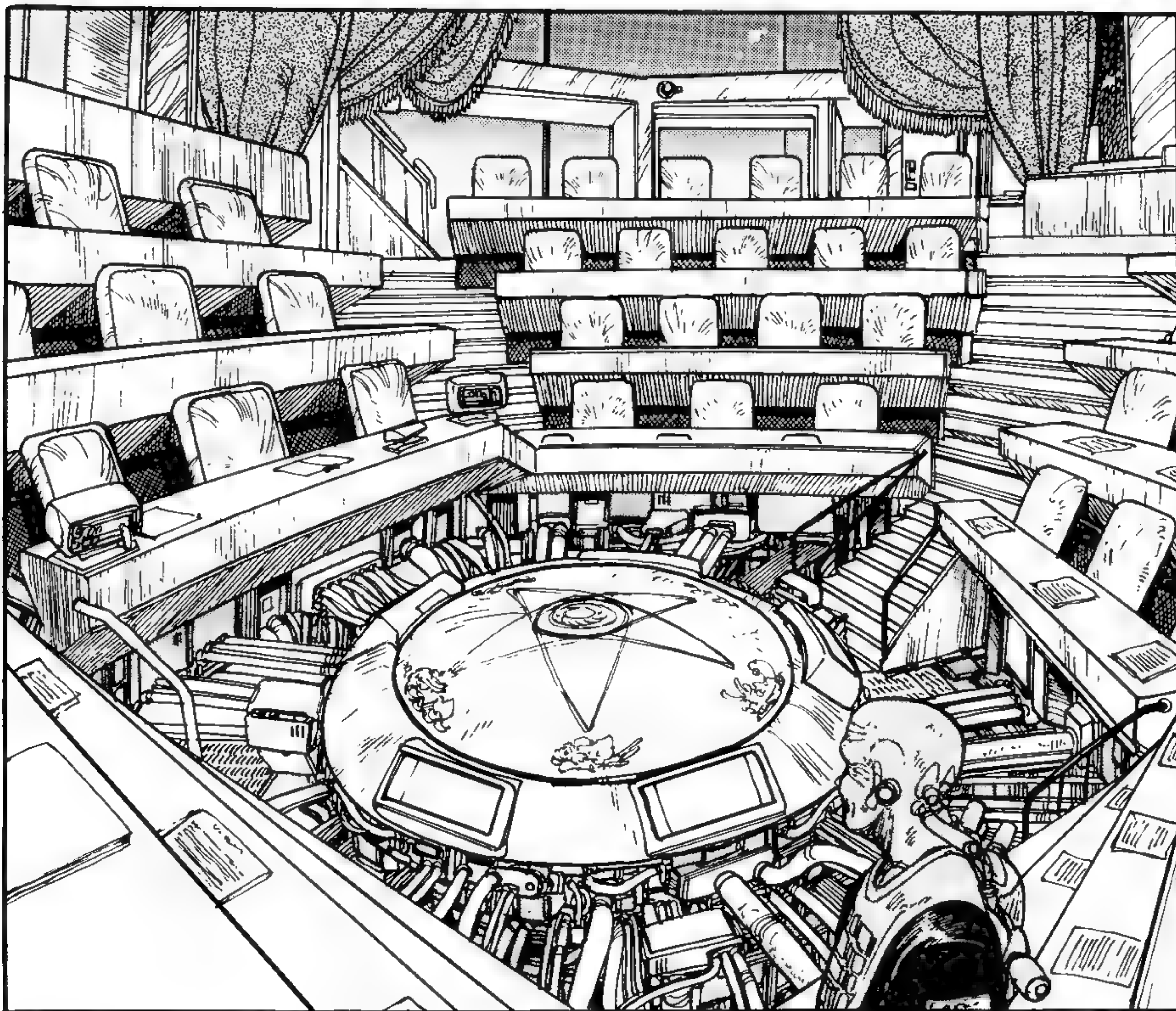
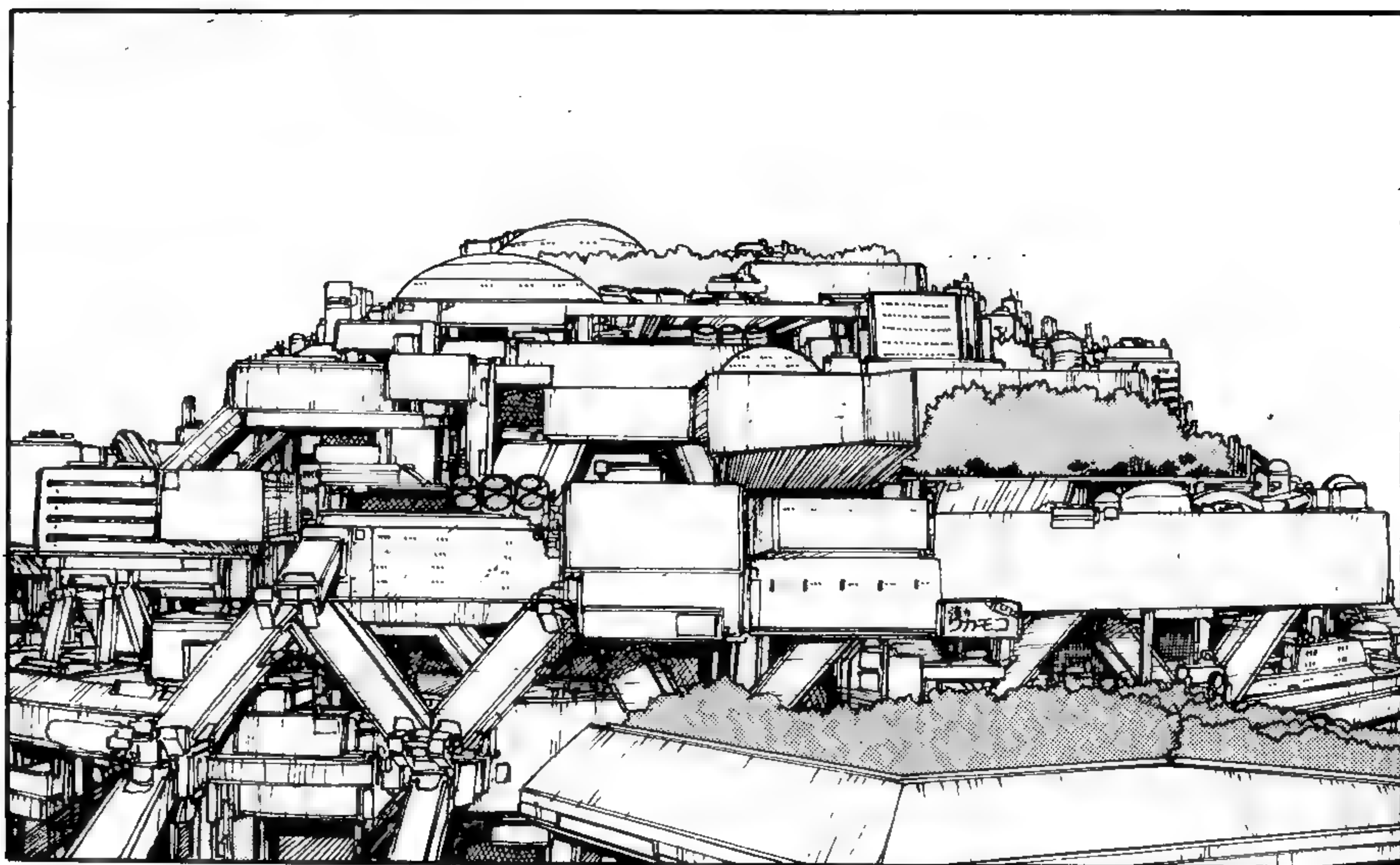
HITOMI...

WELL,  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THOSE  
OLD GUYS  
SAY...

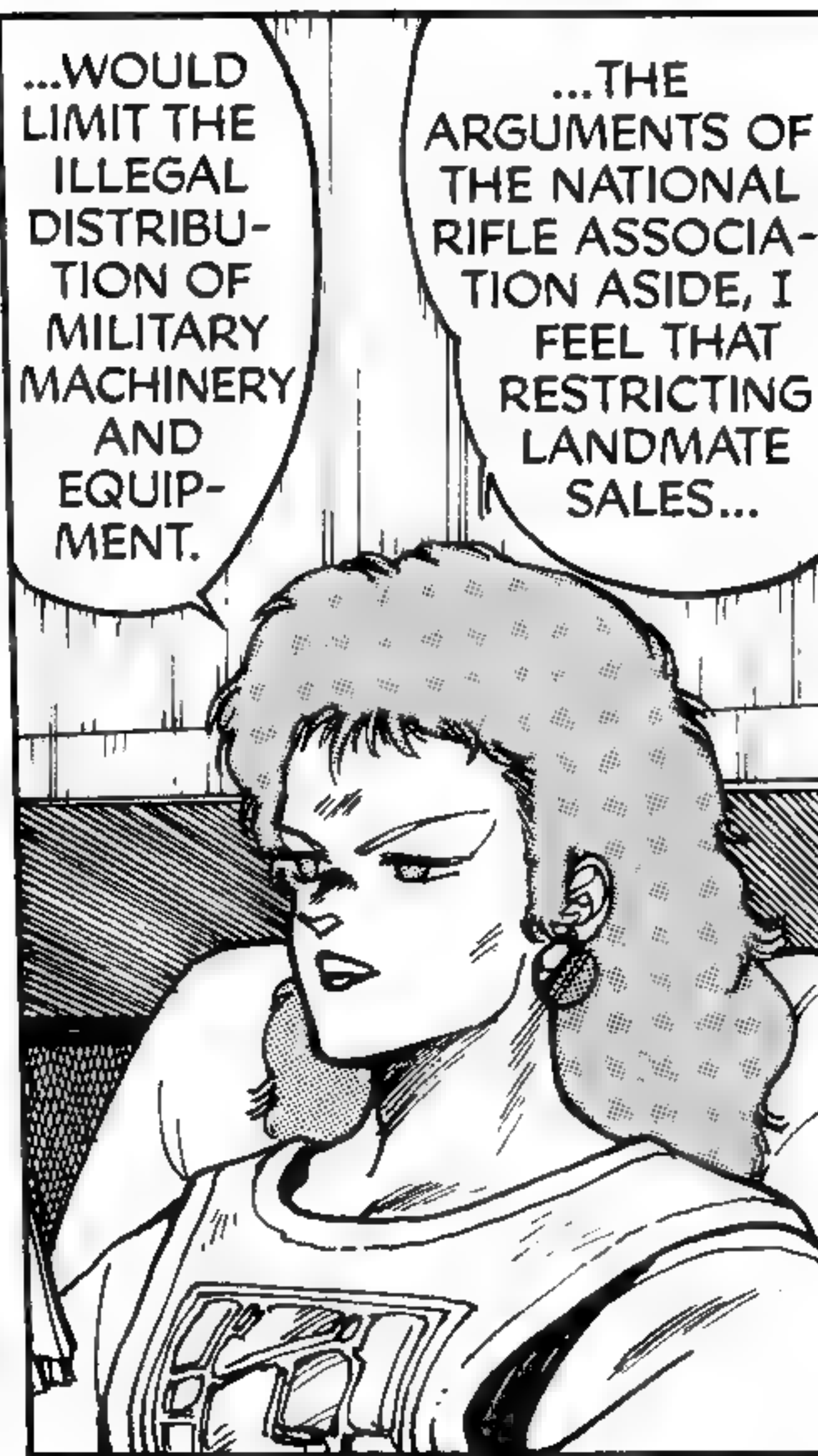
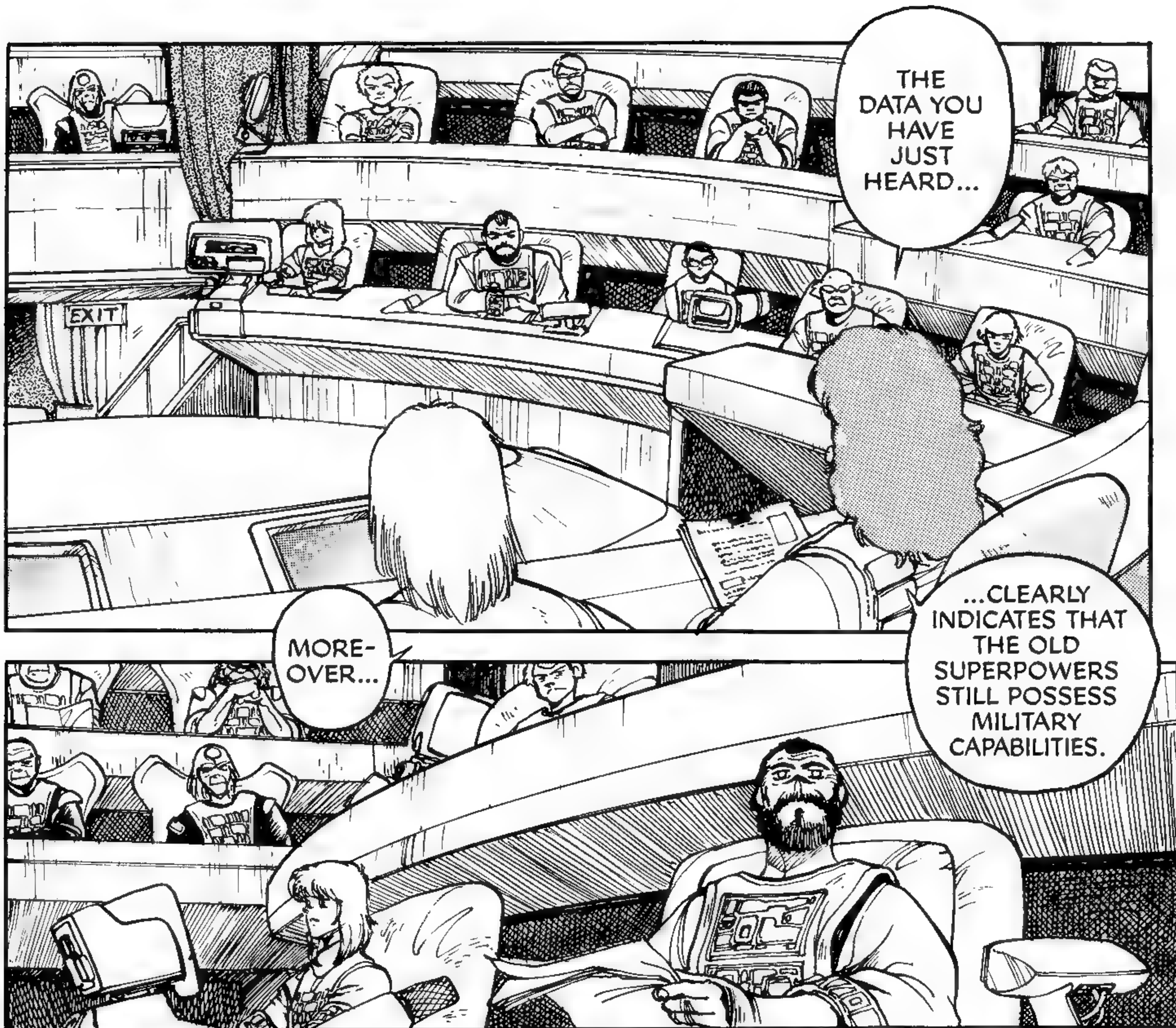




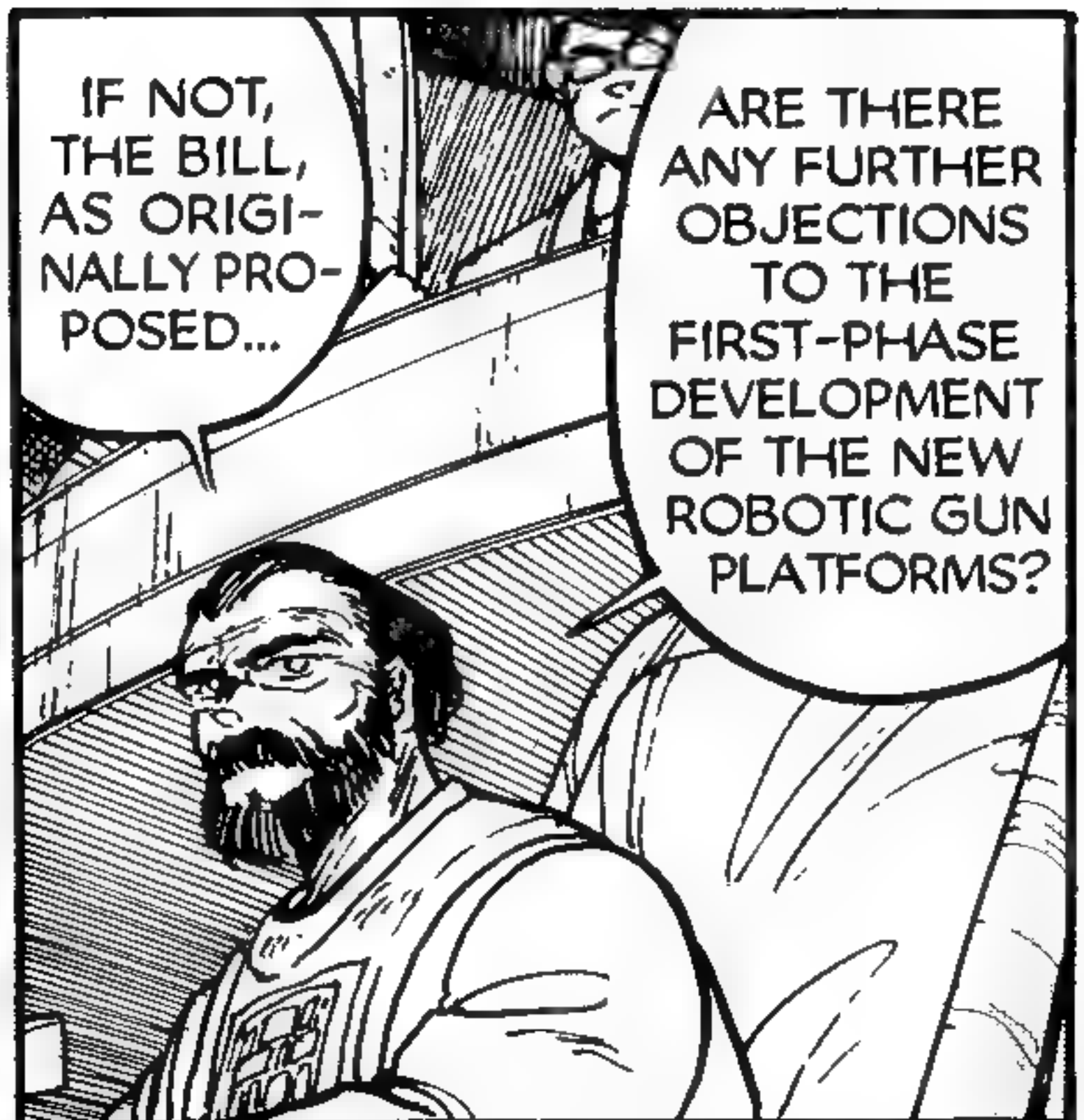




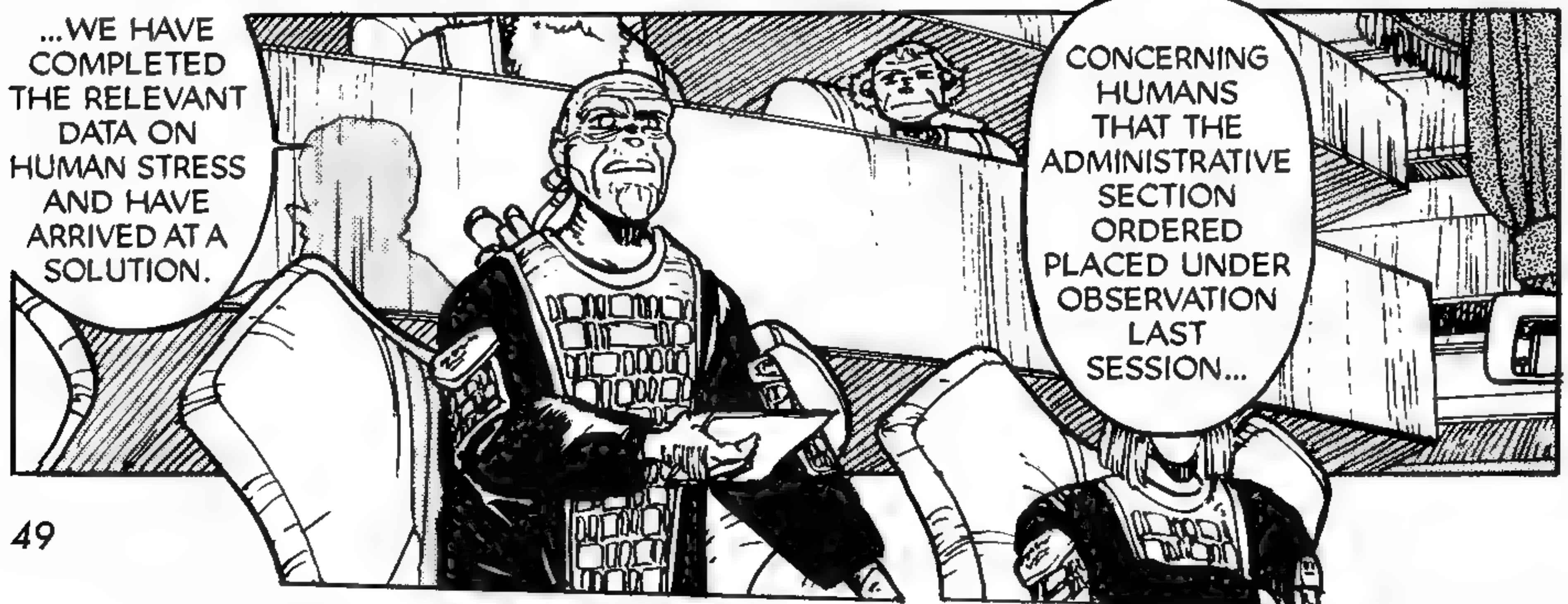




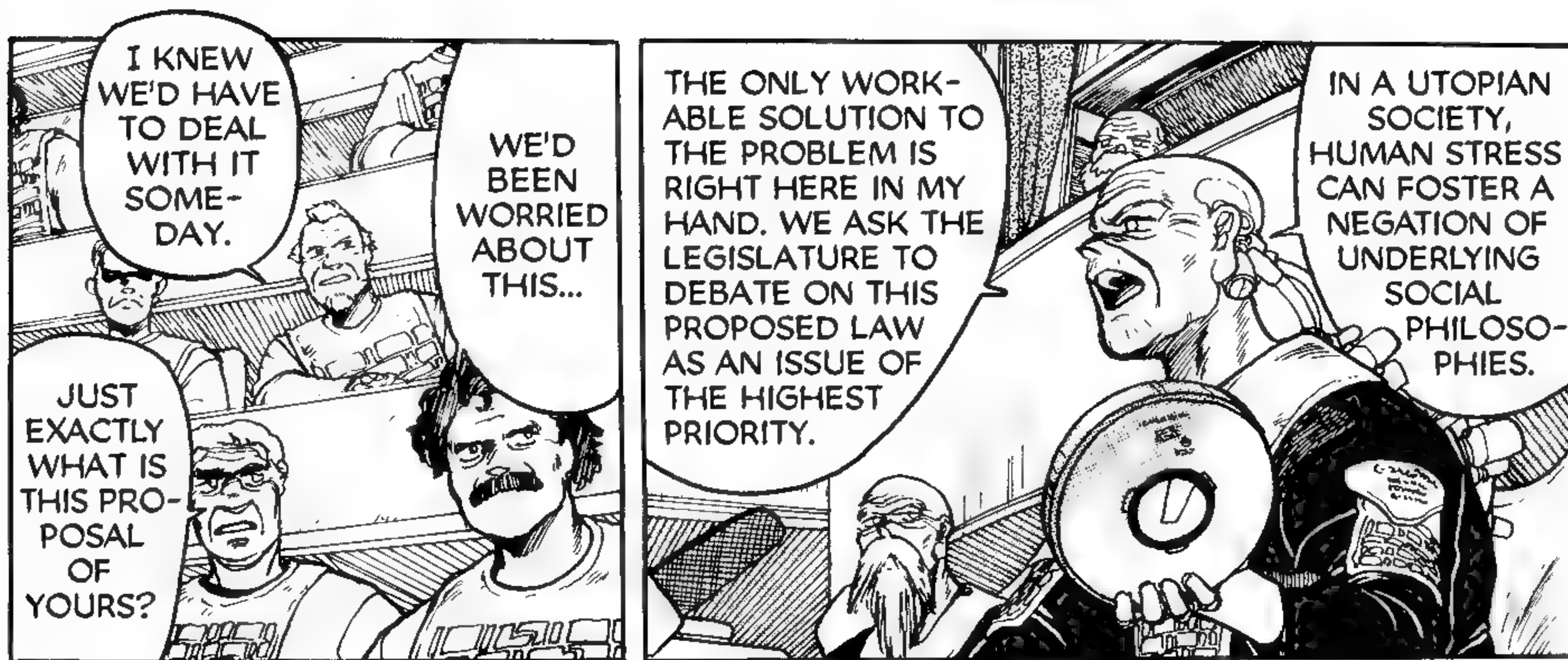




\*FX\* TNK TNK

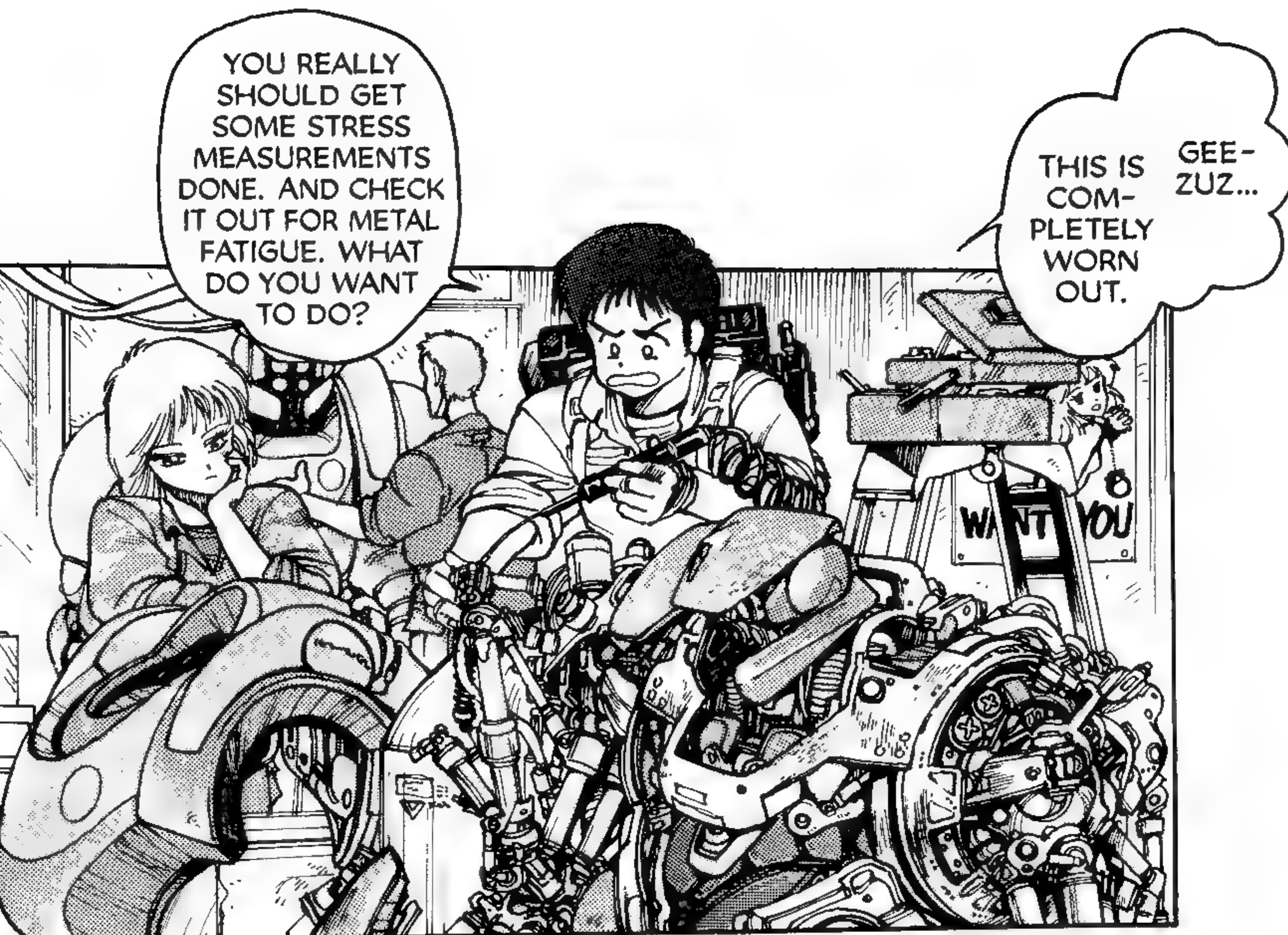






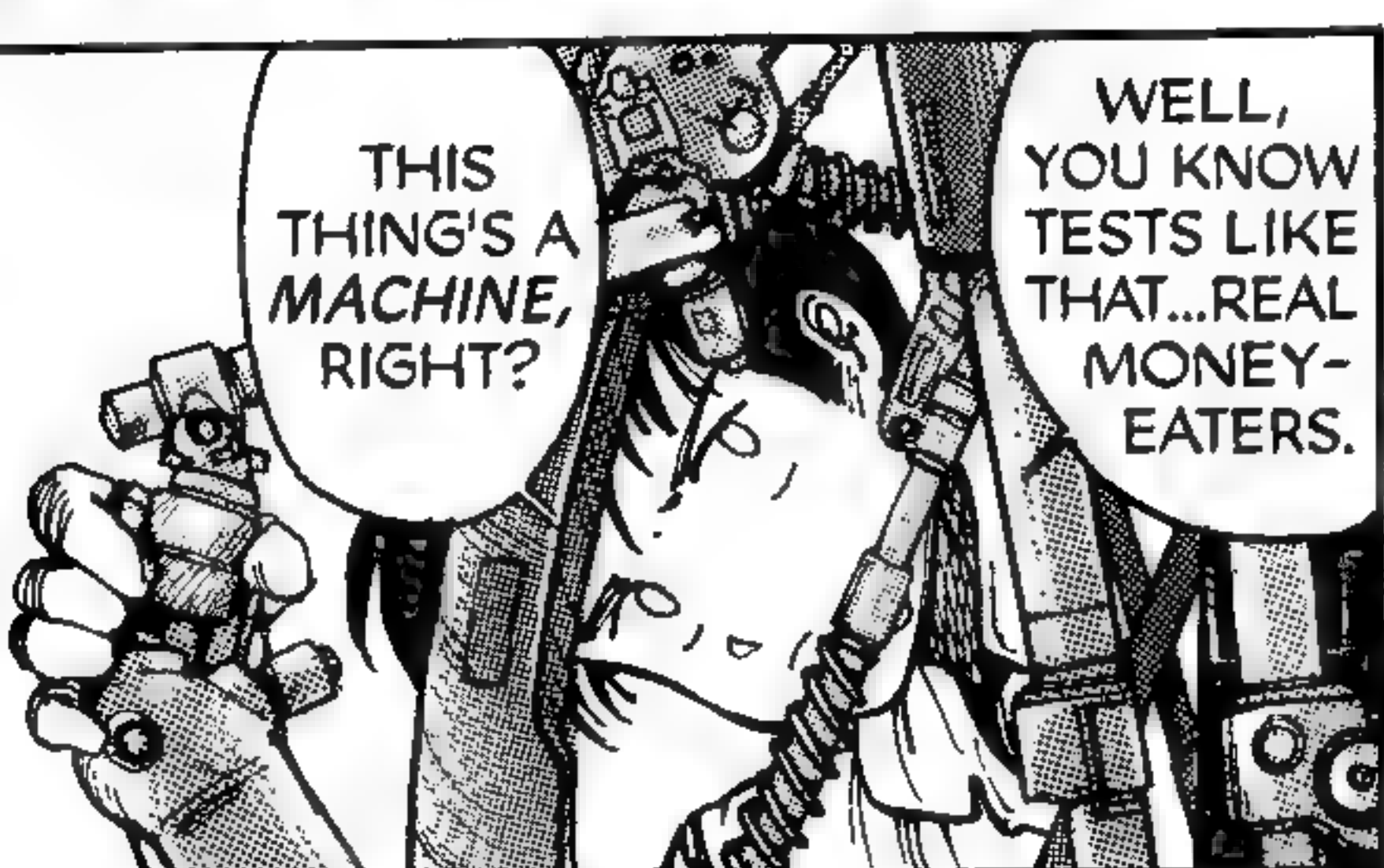
\*Elpis: personification of hope or expectation in Greek mythology. The last creature left in Pandora's box after all the ills of the world had escaped.





YOU REALLY SHOULD GET SOME STRESS MEASUREMENTS DONE. AND CHECK IT OUT FOR METAL FATIGUE. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

GEE-ZUZ...  
THIS IS COMPLETELY WORN OUT.



THIS THING'S A MACHINE, RIGHT?

WELL, YOU KNOW TESTS LIKE THAT...REAL MONEY-EATERS.



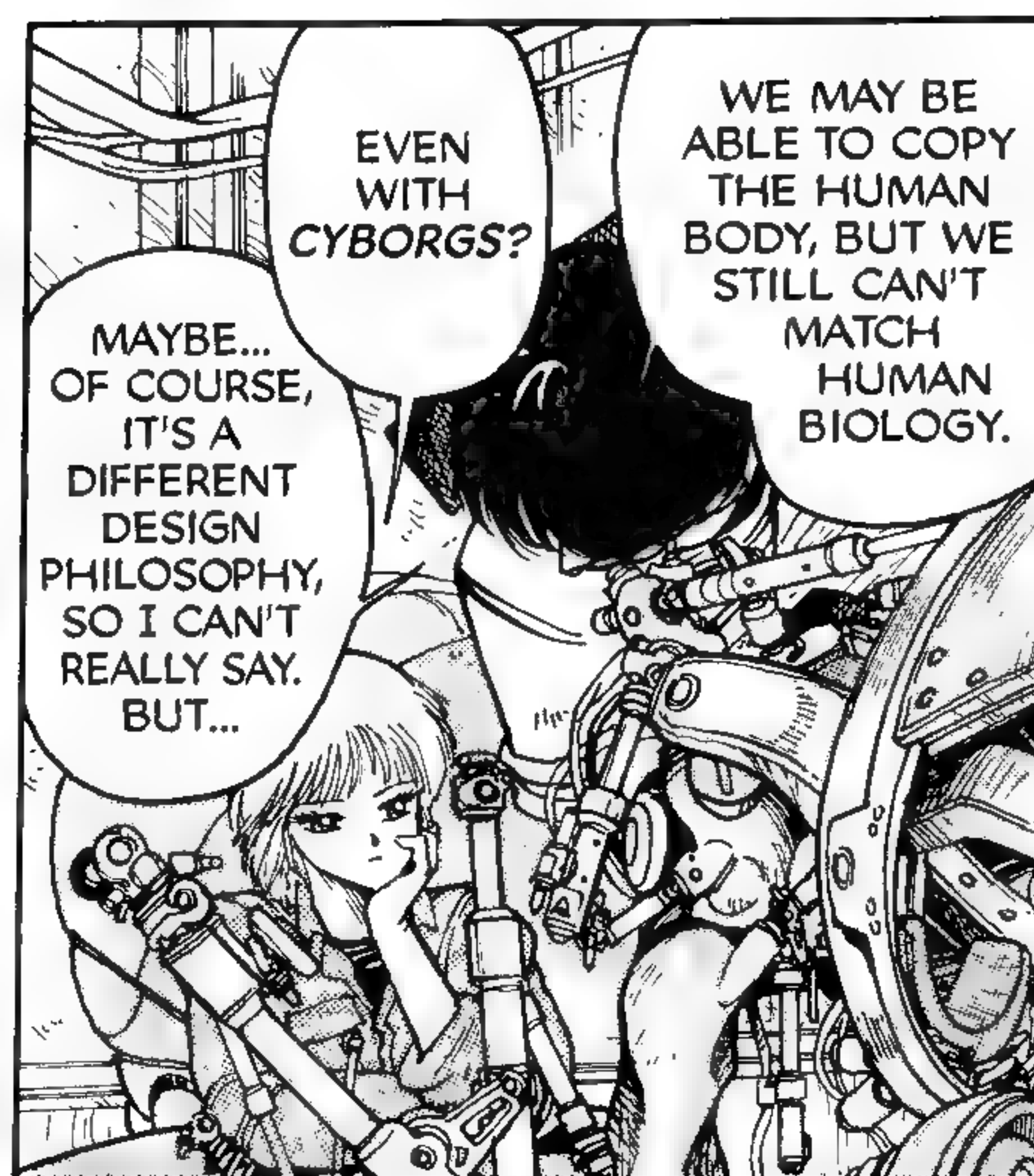
EXPENSIVE, I'LL BET...?



JUST CHANGE THE PARTS, OKAY?

GUESS I'LL SKIP THE TESTS...

...MAINTENANCE DETERMINES PERFORMANCE-- THAT MUCH IS THE SAME. YOU BUY SAFETY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'RE WILLING TO SPEND.



EVEN WITH CYBORGS?

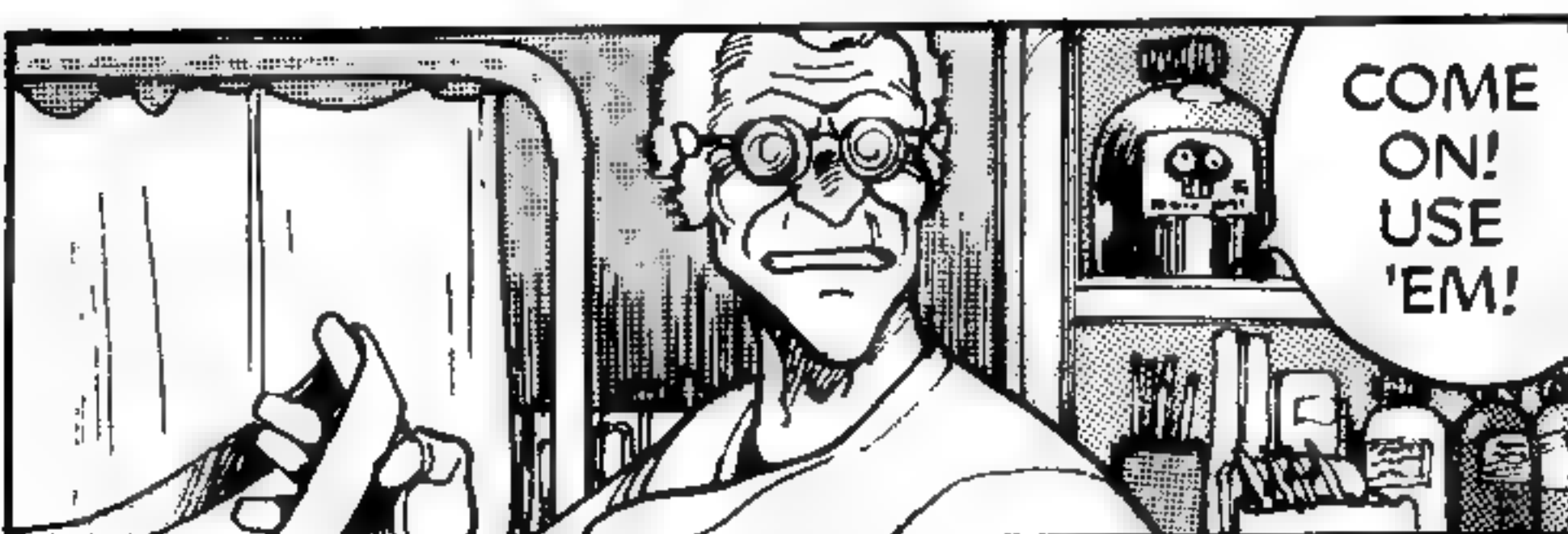
MAYBE... OF COURSE, IT'S A DIFFERENT DESIGN PHILOSOPHY, SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY. BUT...

WE MAY BE ABLE TO COPY THE HUMAN BODY, BUT WE STILL CAN'T MATCH HUMAN BIOLOGY.





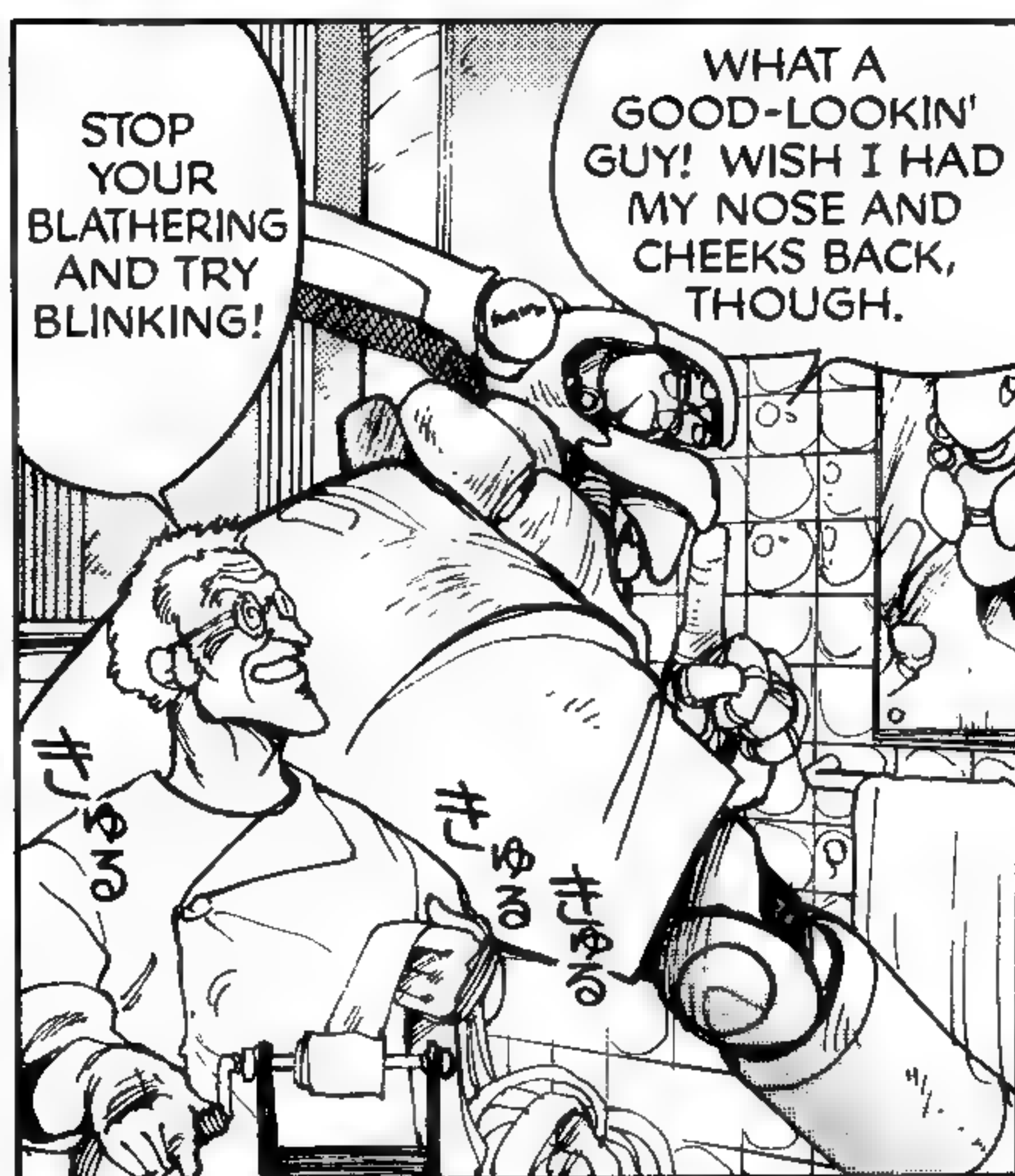
\*FX KCHIK \*FX VZZZT



\*FX CHIK CH K CHIK CHIK CHIK

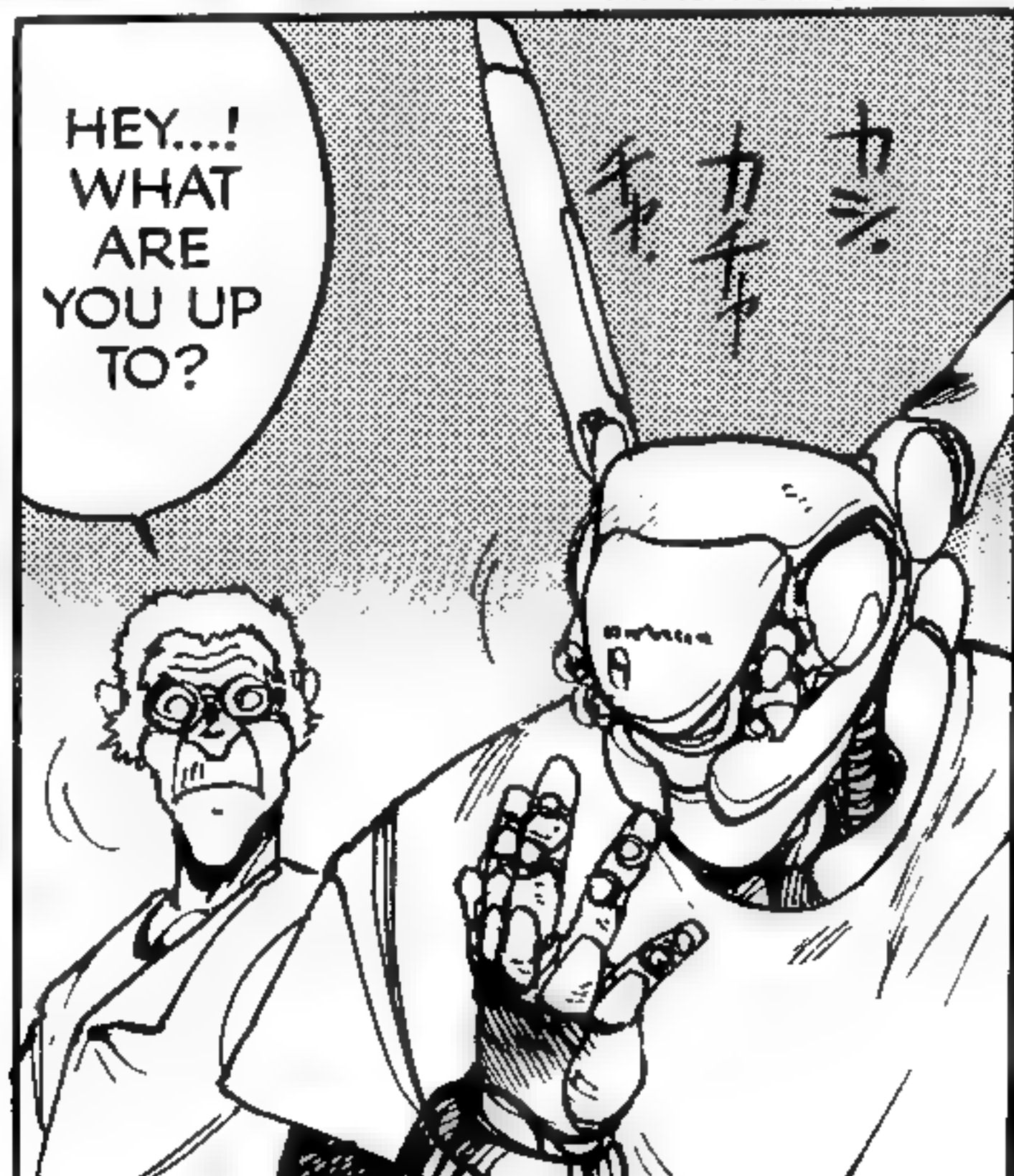
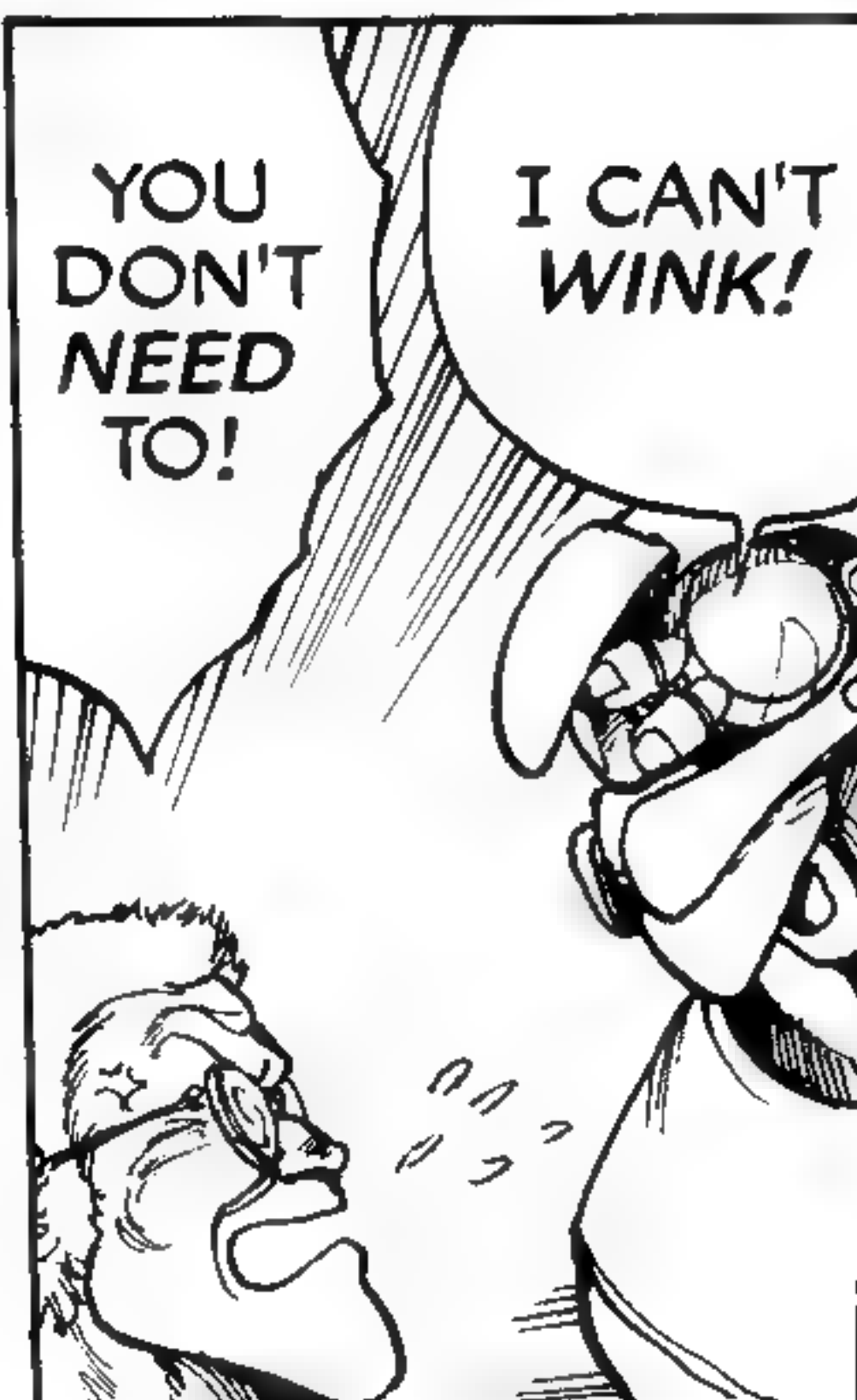
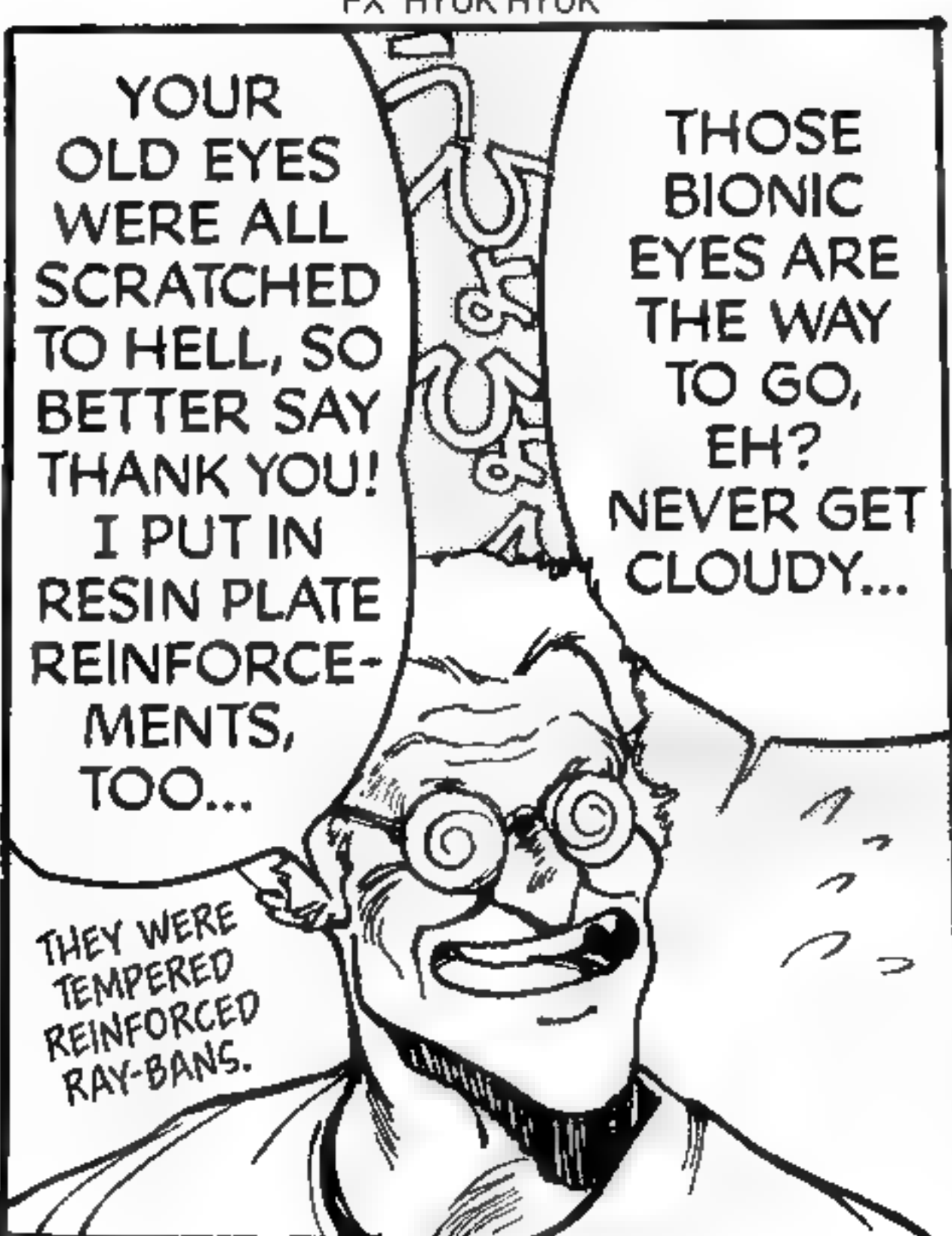


\*FX HYUK HYUK

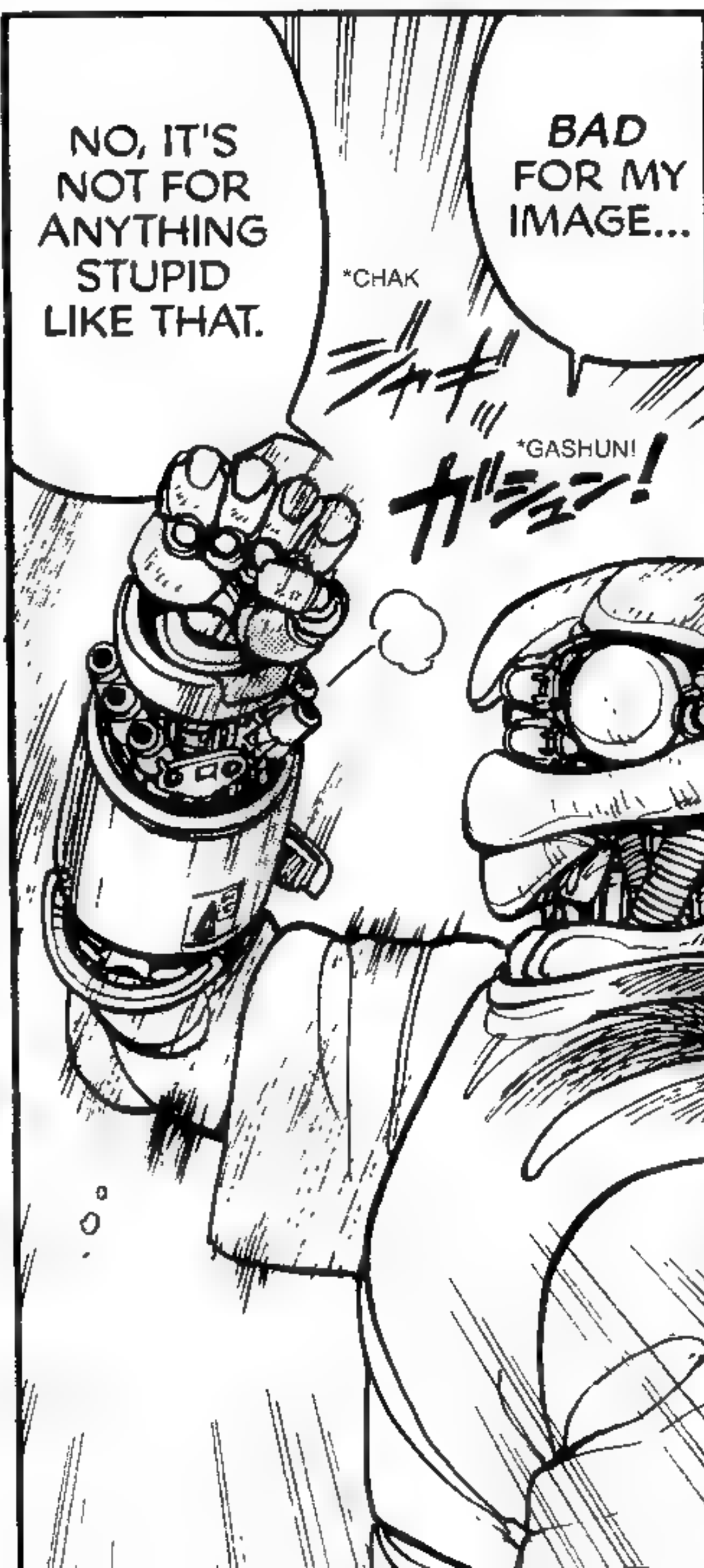
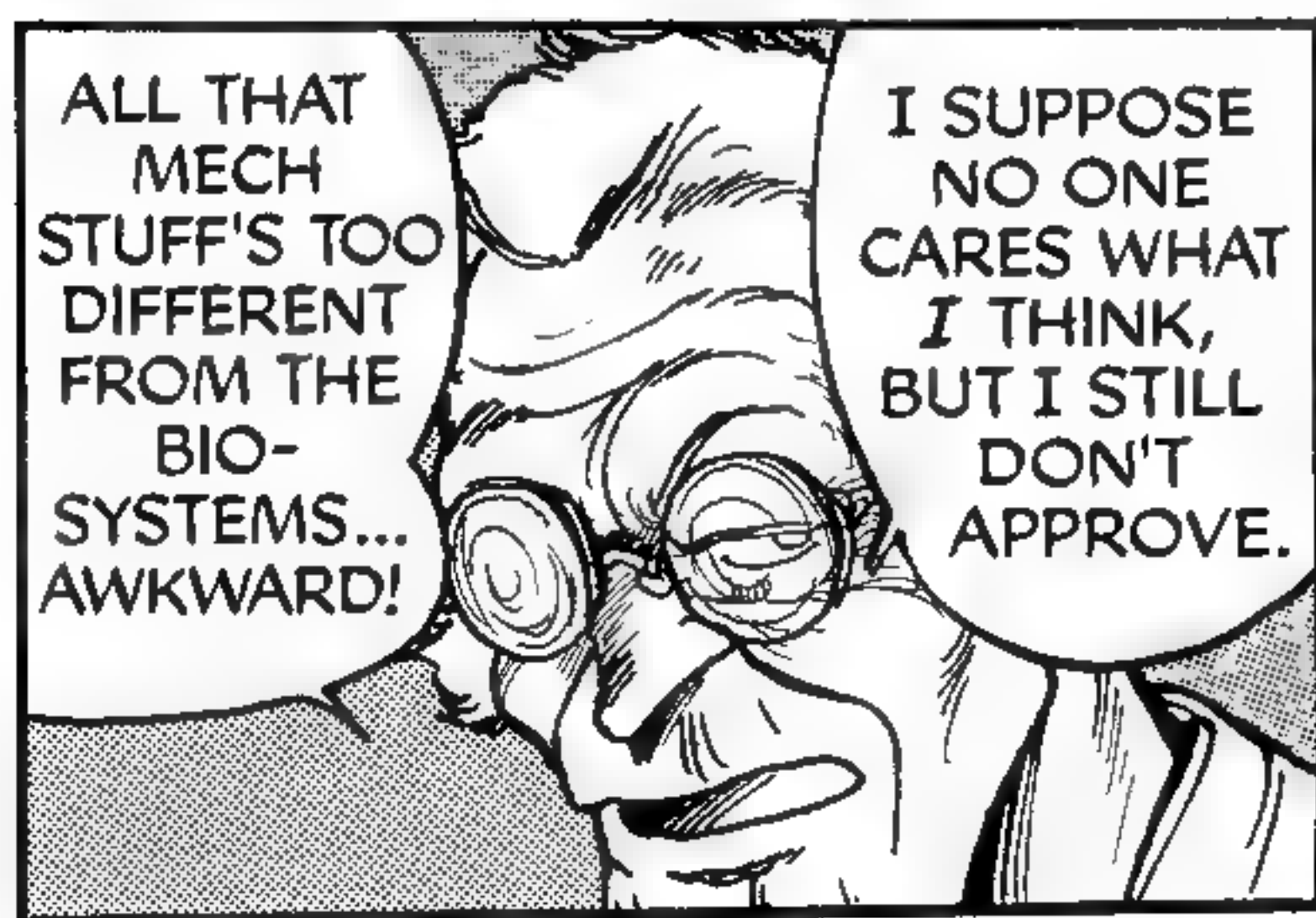
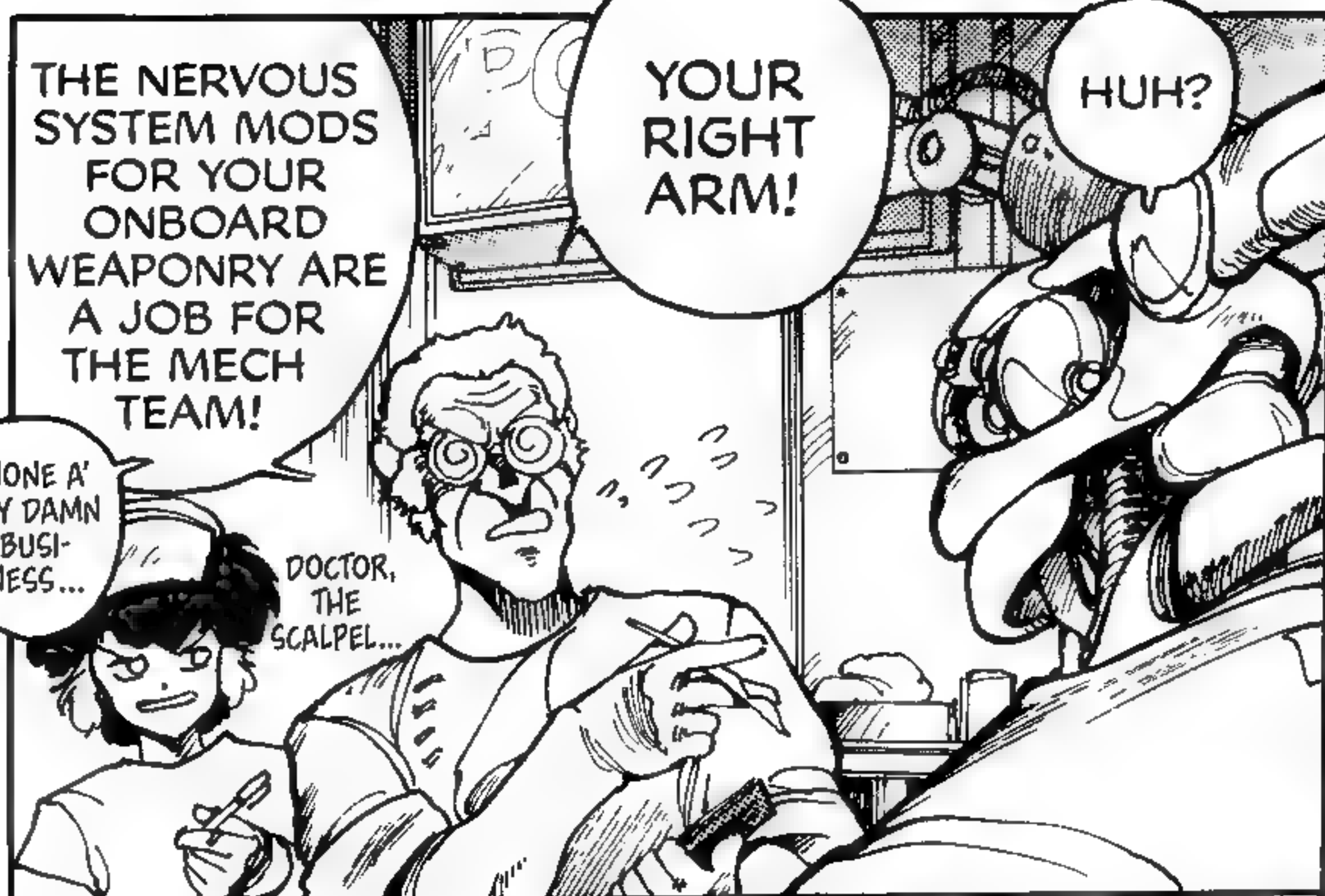


\*FX KYJRJ KYJRJ KYJRJ

\*FX KCHI-CHK CHK-K







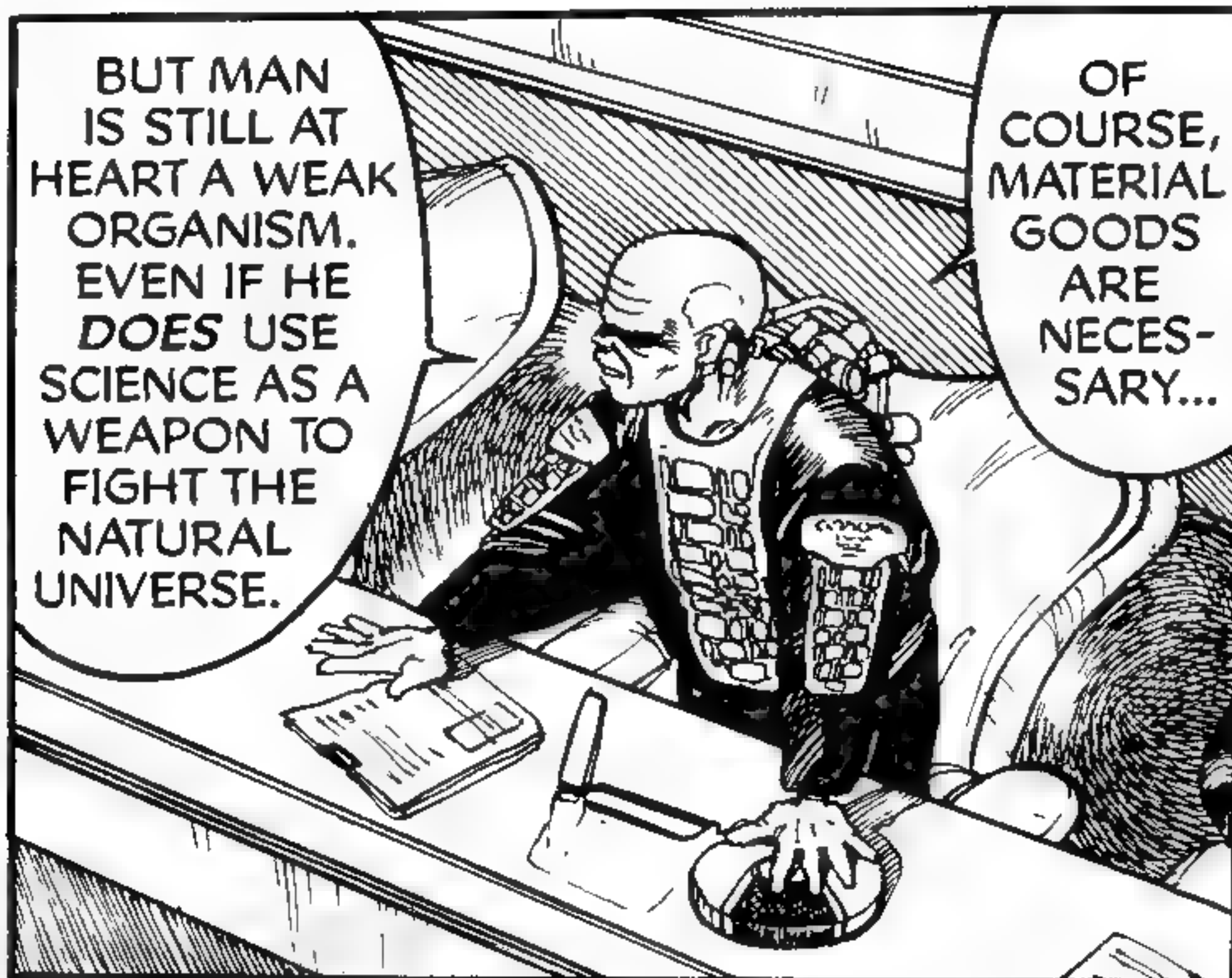




...HAS ALWAYS WORKED PRIMARILY TO BOOST THE MATERIAL GAINS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

FOR AN EXAMPLE, THE HUMAN RACE...

ALWAYS!

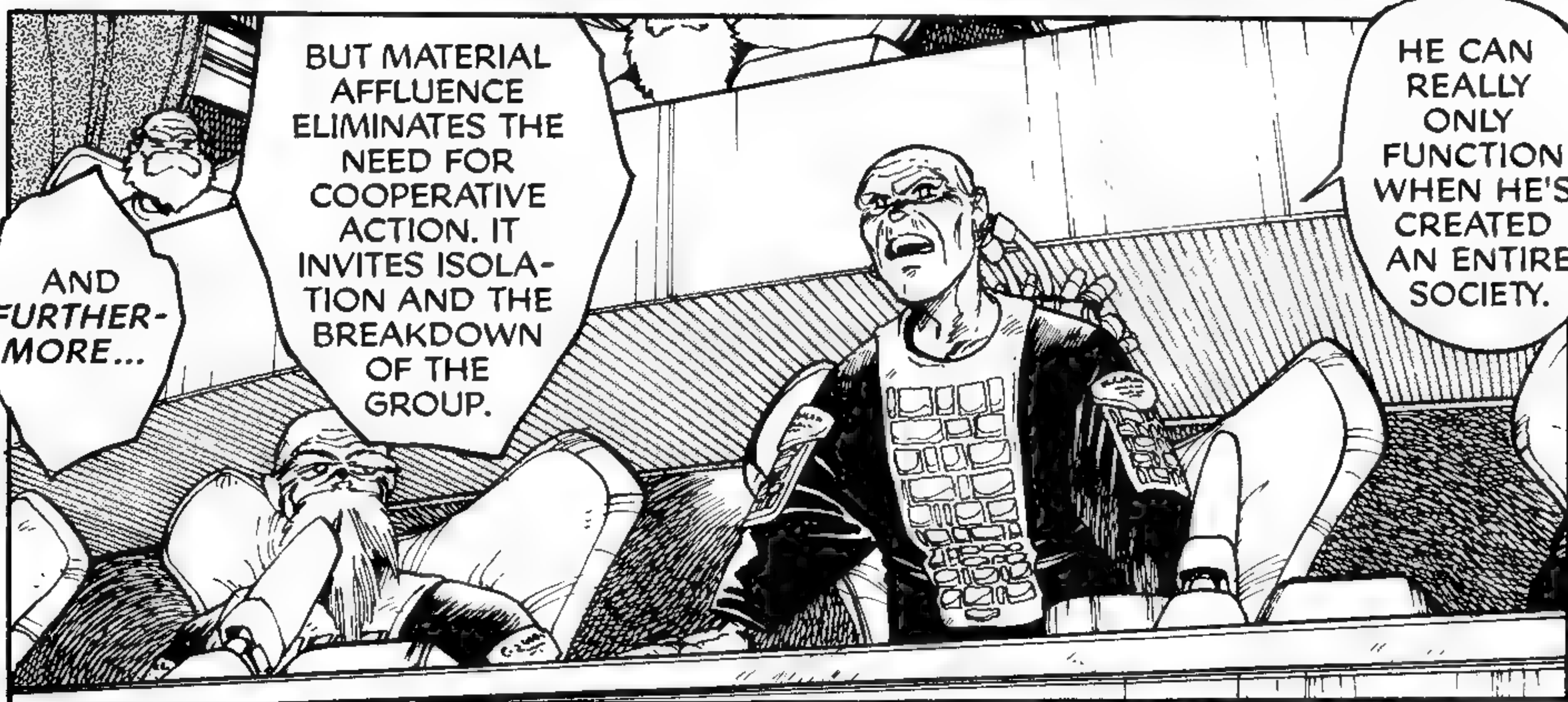


BUT MAN IS STILL AT HEART A WEAK ORGANISM. EVEN IF HE DOES USE SCIENCE AS A WEAPON TO FIGHT THE NATURAL UNIVERSE.

OF COURSE, MATERIAL GOODS ARE NECESSARY...



THEY'VE MADE AN AESTHETIC OF CONSUMPTION, AND SATISFIED COUNTLESS MATERIAL WANTS...

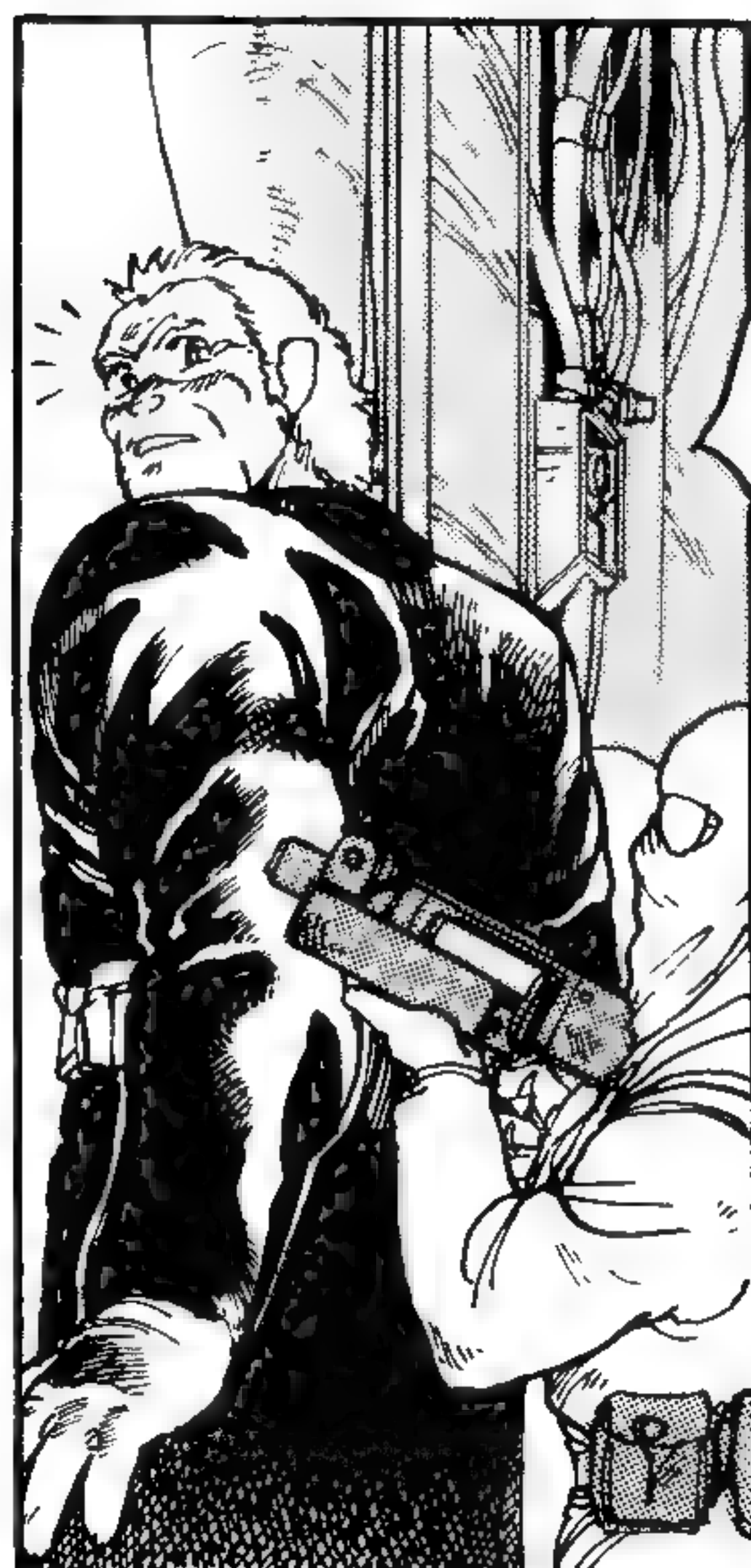
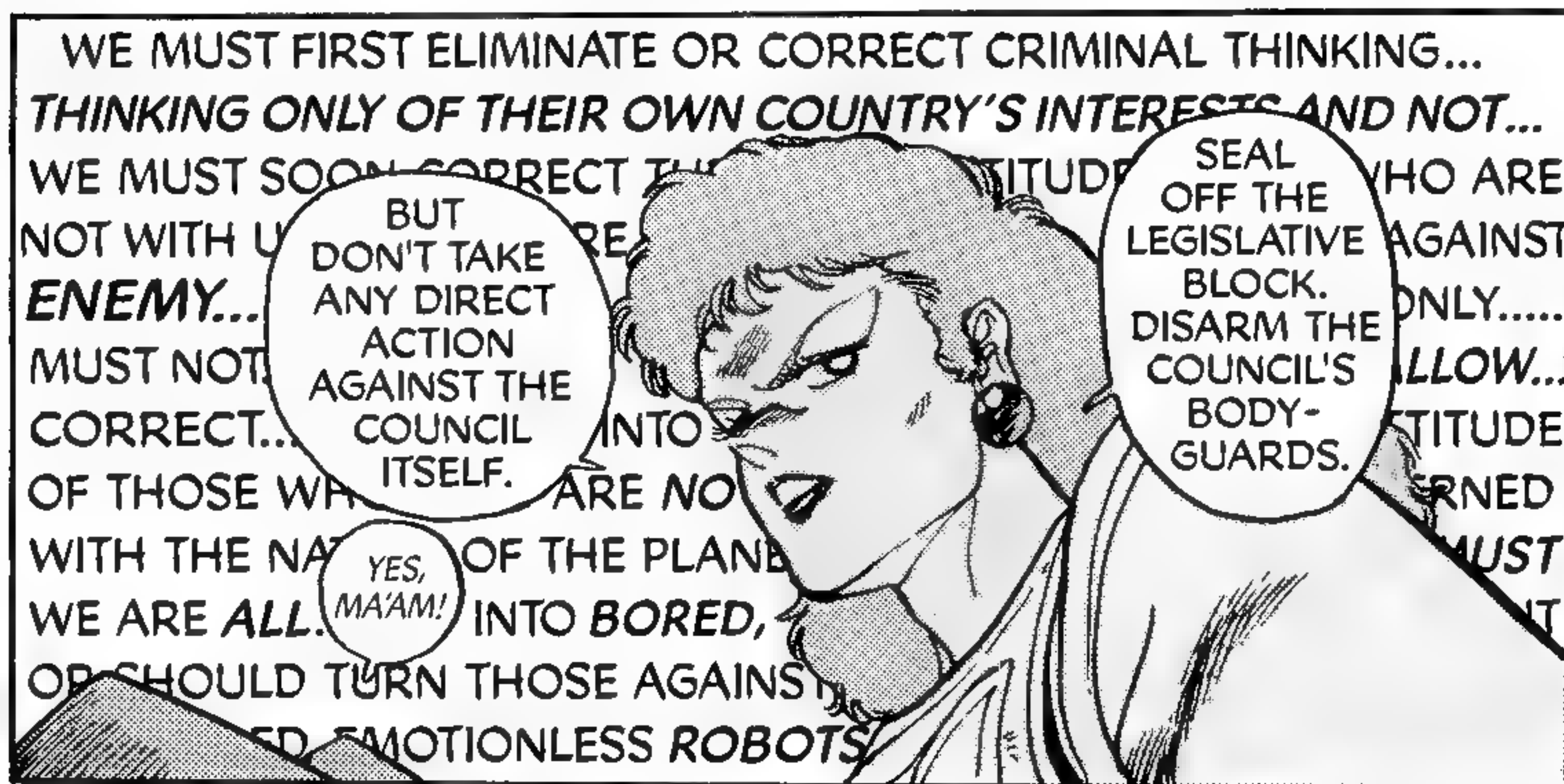
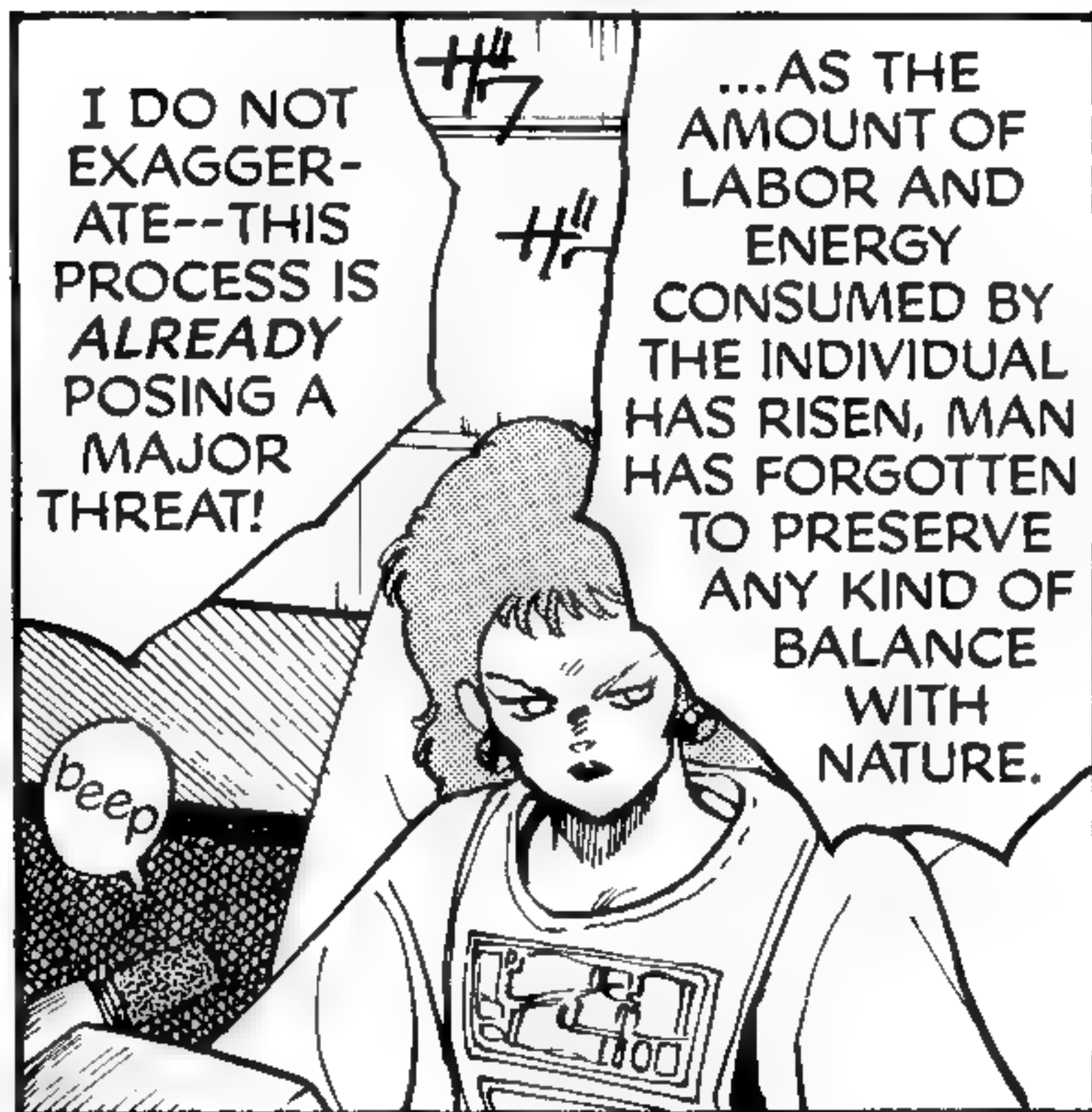
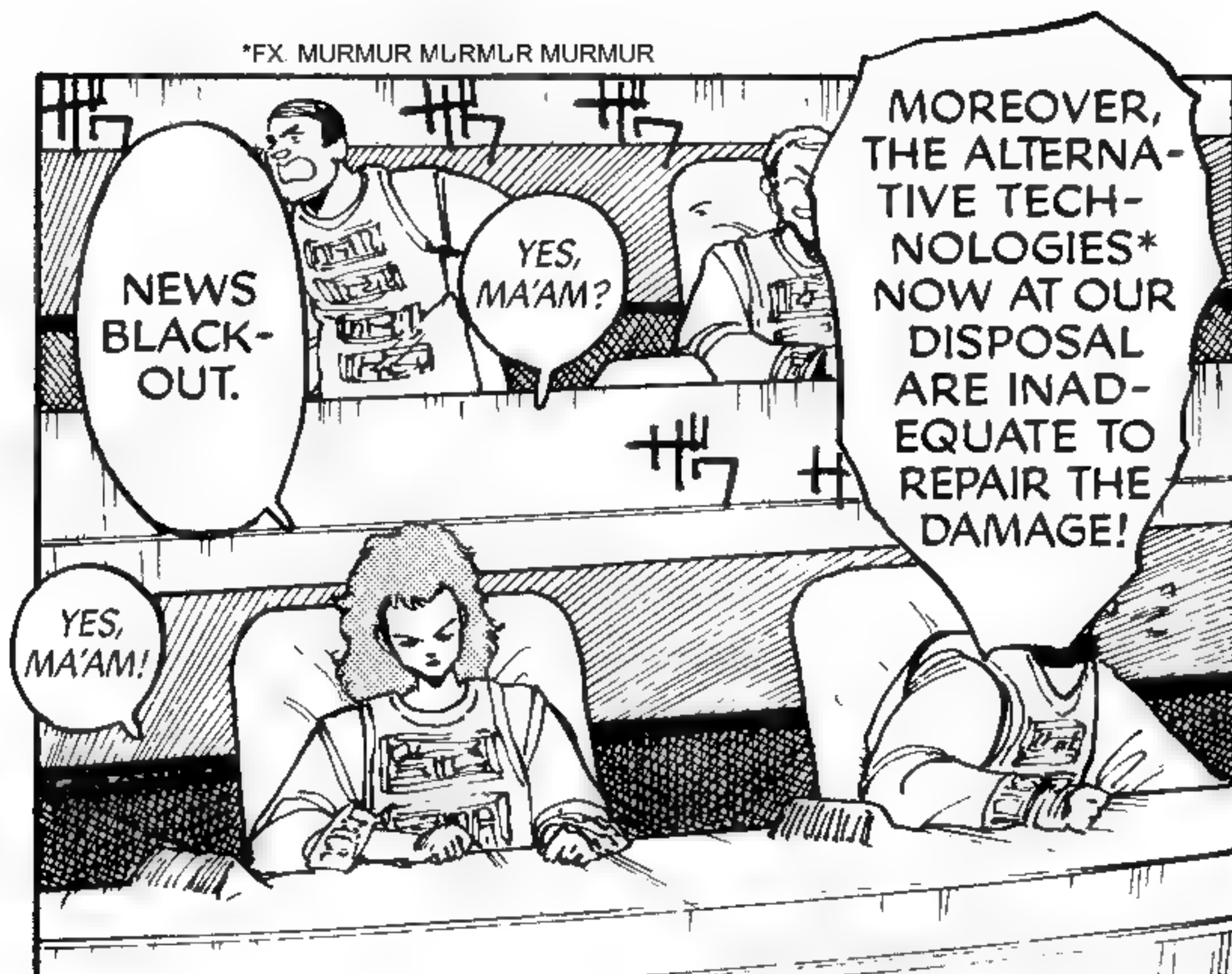


AND FURTHER-MORE...

BUT MATERIAL AFFLUENCE ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION. IT INVITES ISOLATION AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE GROUP.

HE CAN REALLY ONLY FUNCTION WHEN HE'S CREATED AN ENTIRE SOCIETY.





\*technology predicated on the harmonious coexistence of man and nature.





...IN THE SAME LIGHT AS ADMINISTERING EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE TO A DYING PATIENT.

WE MUST LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF APPLYING BIOROID SYSTEMS TO HUMAN BEINGS...



YET THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID WALKING THE PATH TO COLLAPSE AND DESTRUCTION IS TO CREATE HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE IN A STATE OF DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM, UNIFYING REASON AND EMOTION!

DO NOT MISTAKE OUR PROPOSAL FOR DOMINATION OR BRAINWASHING! WE WILL NOT FORCE IT ON ANYONE!

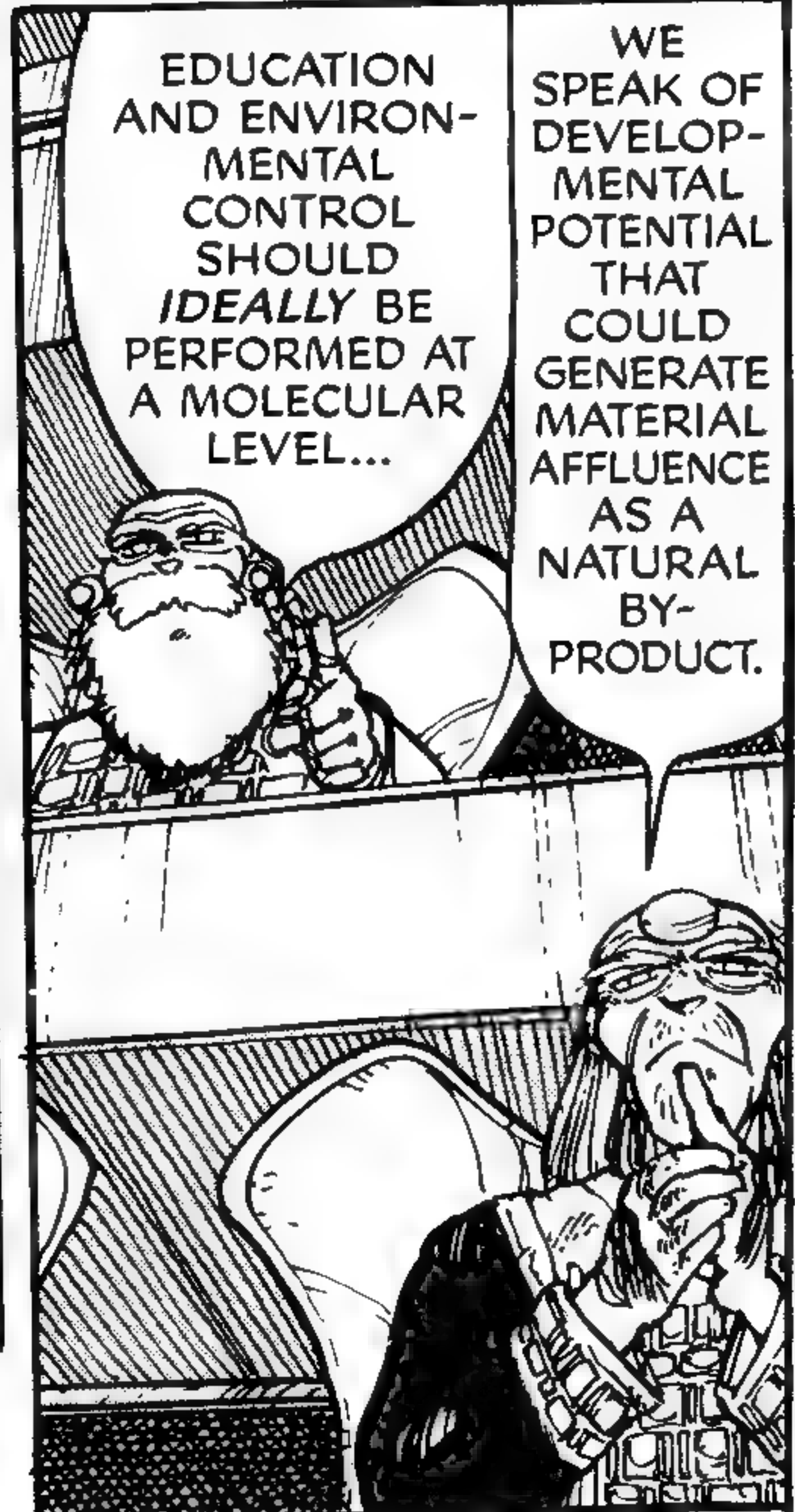
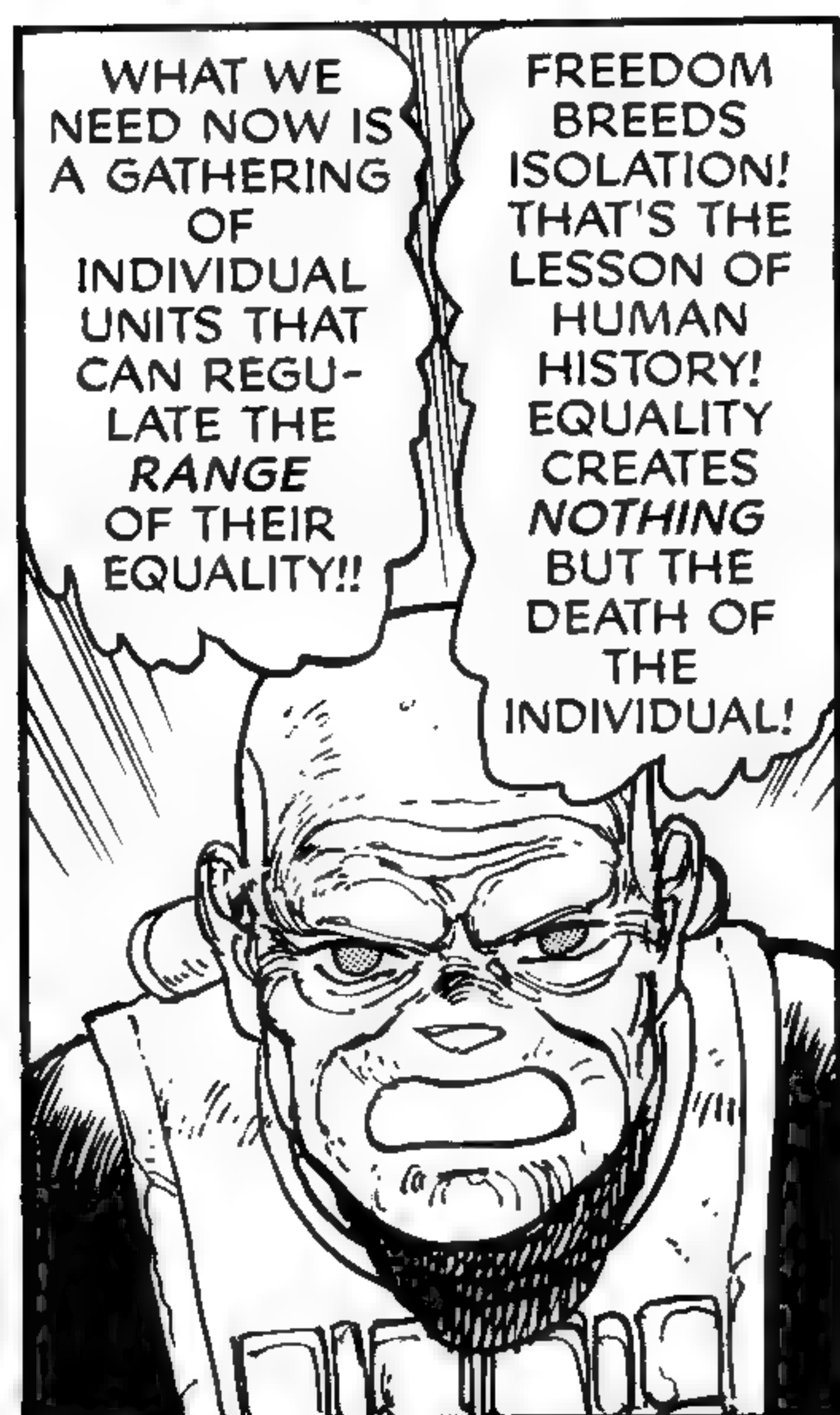
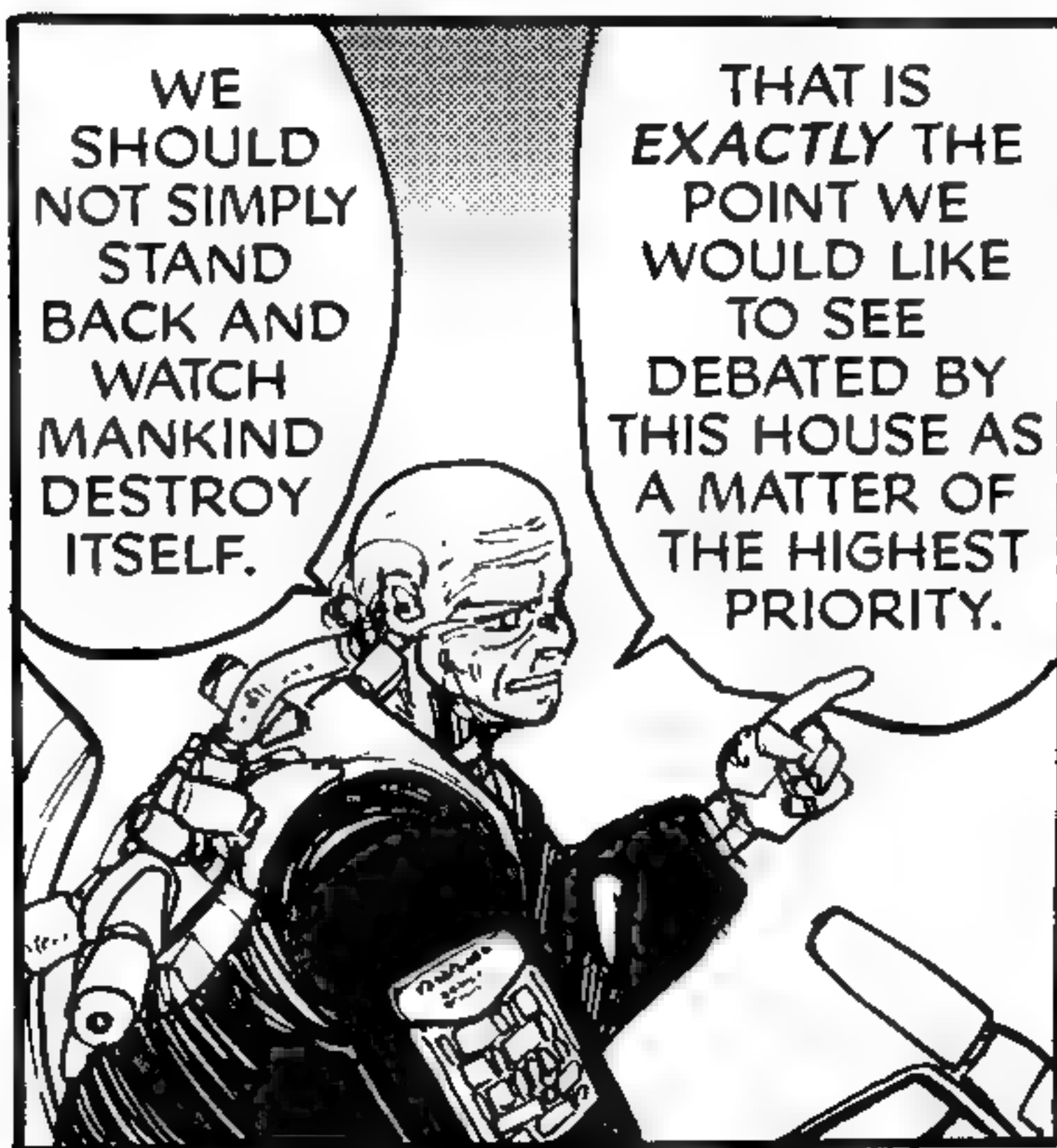
**SILENCE!**  
EVERYONE, PLEASE!



WE NEED INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN FEED BACK INTO THE HARMONY OF THE WHOLE. WE NEED INDIVIDUALS WITH THE ABILITY TO MOLD A UTOPIA AND LIVE IN IT!





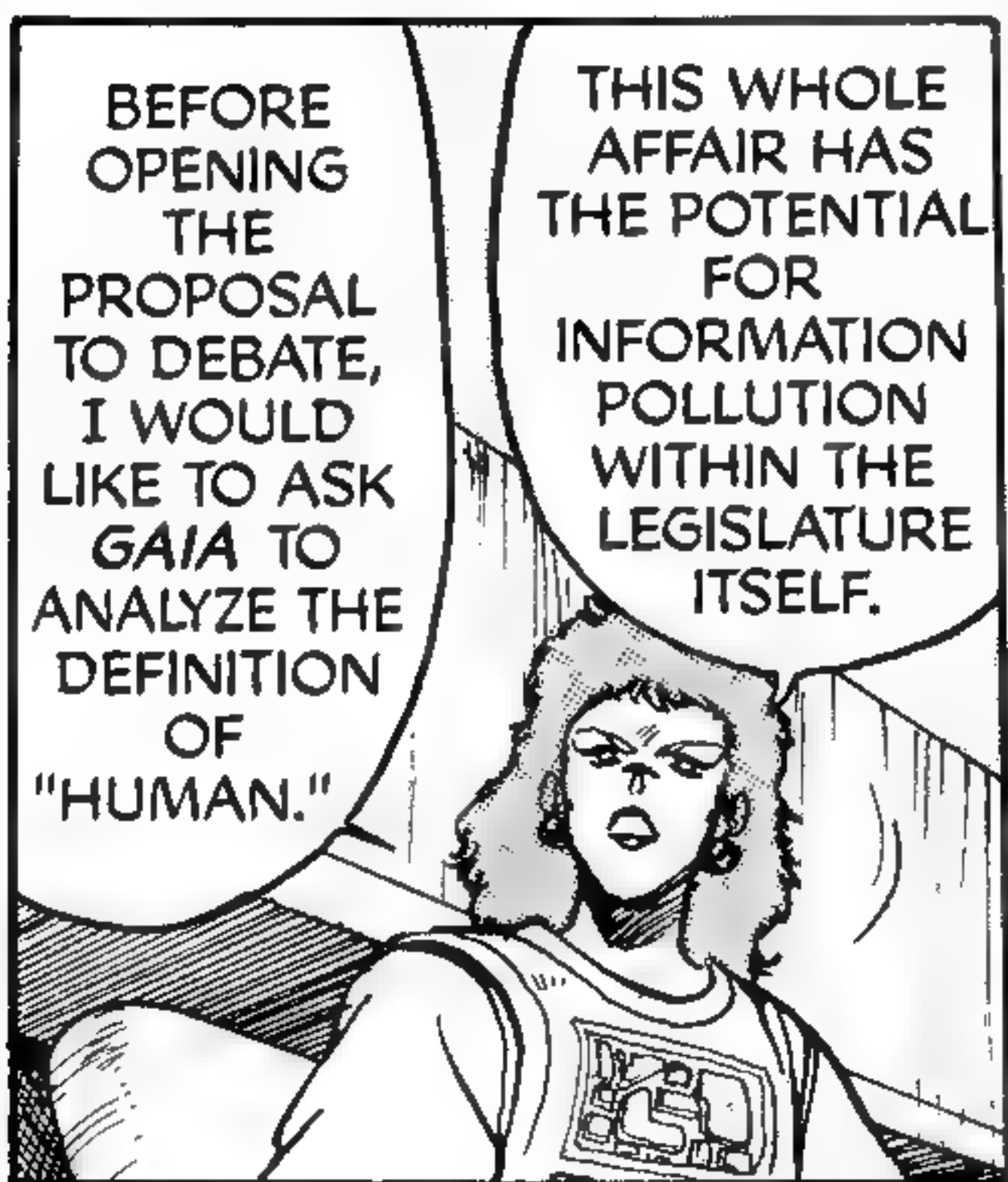






TAKE THE  
DESIRE TO  
RETURN TO THE  
CRADLE TO AN  
EXTREME, AND  
ALL YOU GET  
IS *DEATH!!*  
WHAT KIND OF  
UTOPIA IS  
THAT?!

*LISTEN TO ME!!*  
PEOPLE HAVE  
BECOME TOO  
MATERIALISTIC!  
THEIR  
NETWORKS ARE  
DISINTEGRATING--  
THEY'RE  
FORGETTING  
EVEN HOW TO  
NETWORK!



BEFORE  
OPENING  
THE  
PROPOSAL  
TO DEBATE,  
I WOULD  
LIKE TO ASK  
GAIA TO  
ANALYZE THE  
DEFINITION  
OF  
"HUMAN."

THIS WHOLE  
AFFAIR HAS  
THE POTENTIAL  
FOR  
INFORMATION  
POLLUTION  
WITHIN THE  
LEGISLATURE  
ITSELF.

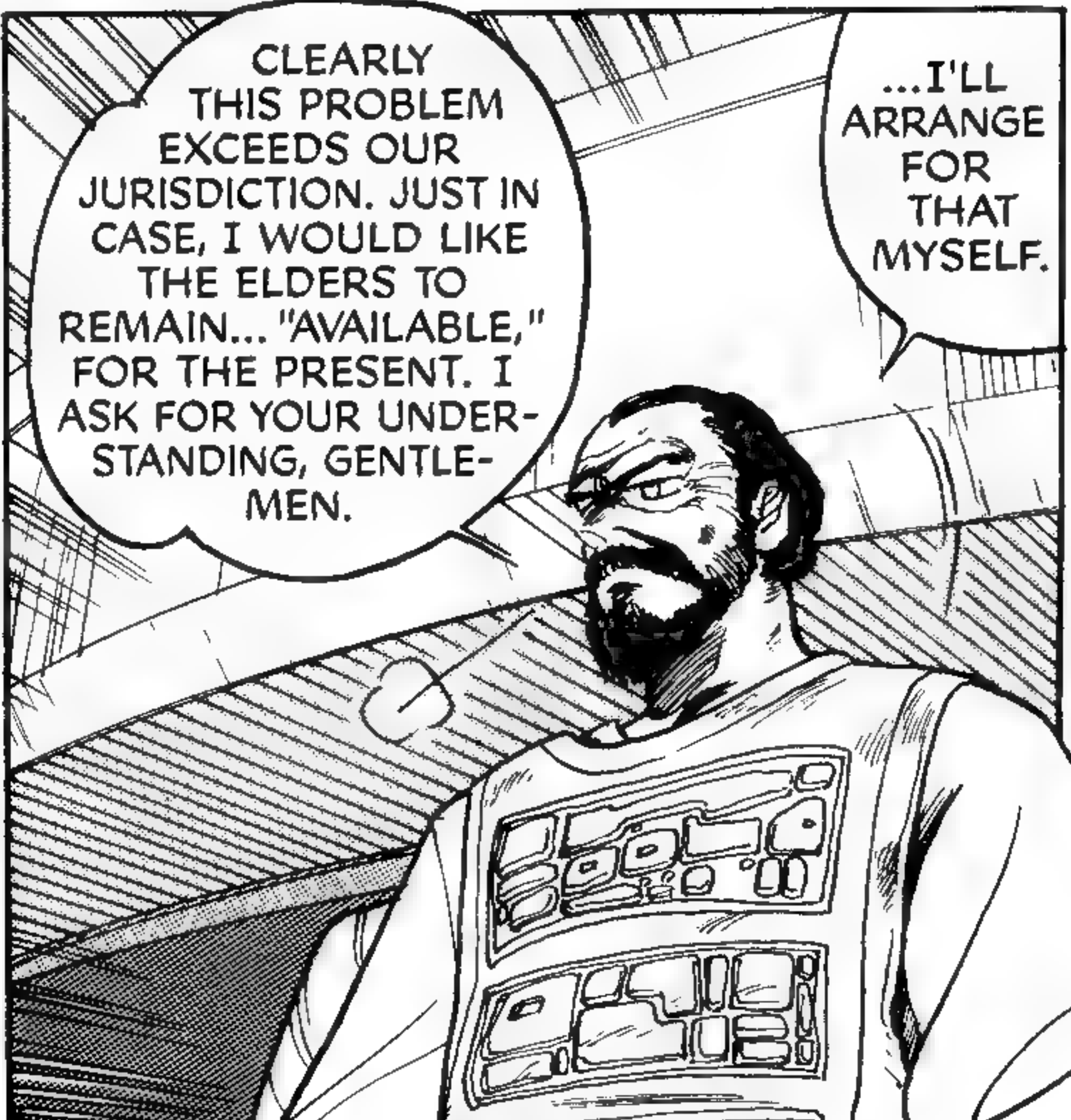


??

EH?



DIREC-  
TOR!



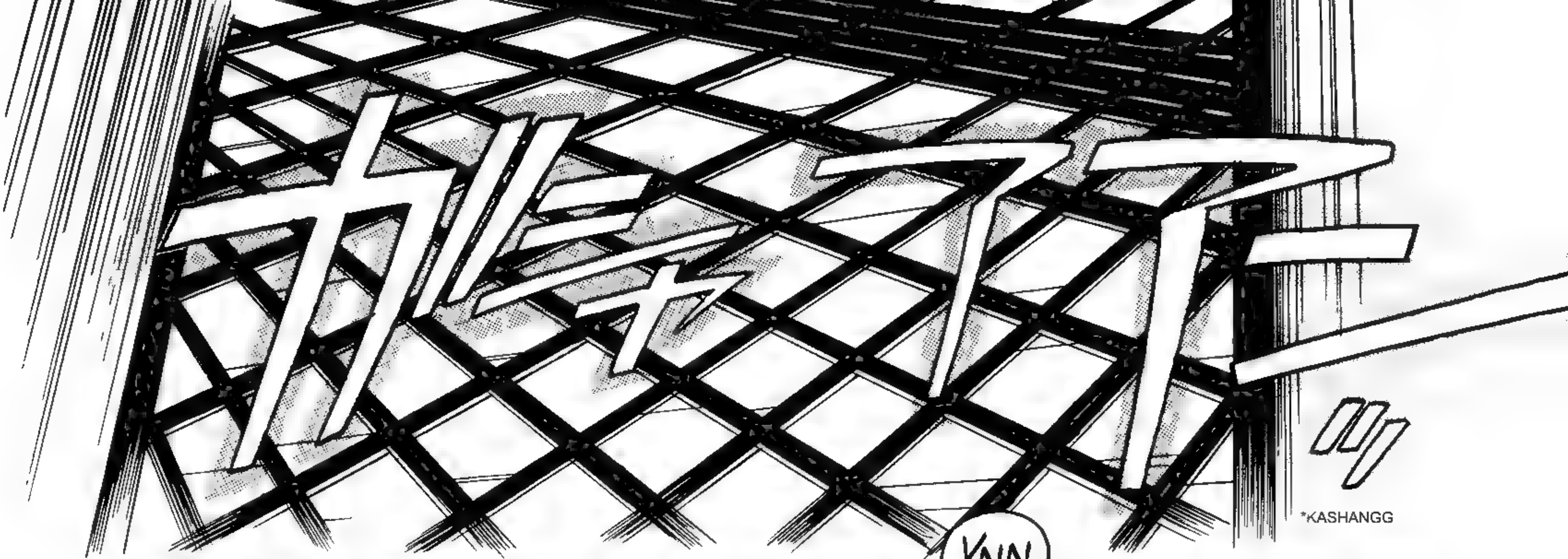
CLEARLY  
THIS PROBLEM  
EXCEEDS OUR  
JURISDICTION. JUST IN  
CASE, I WOULD LIKE  
THE ELDERS TO  
REMAIN... "AVAILABLE,"  
FOR THE PRESENT. I  
ASK FOR YOUR UNDER-  
STANDING, GENTLE-  
MEN.

...I'LL  
ARRANGE  
FOR  
THAT  
MYSELF.

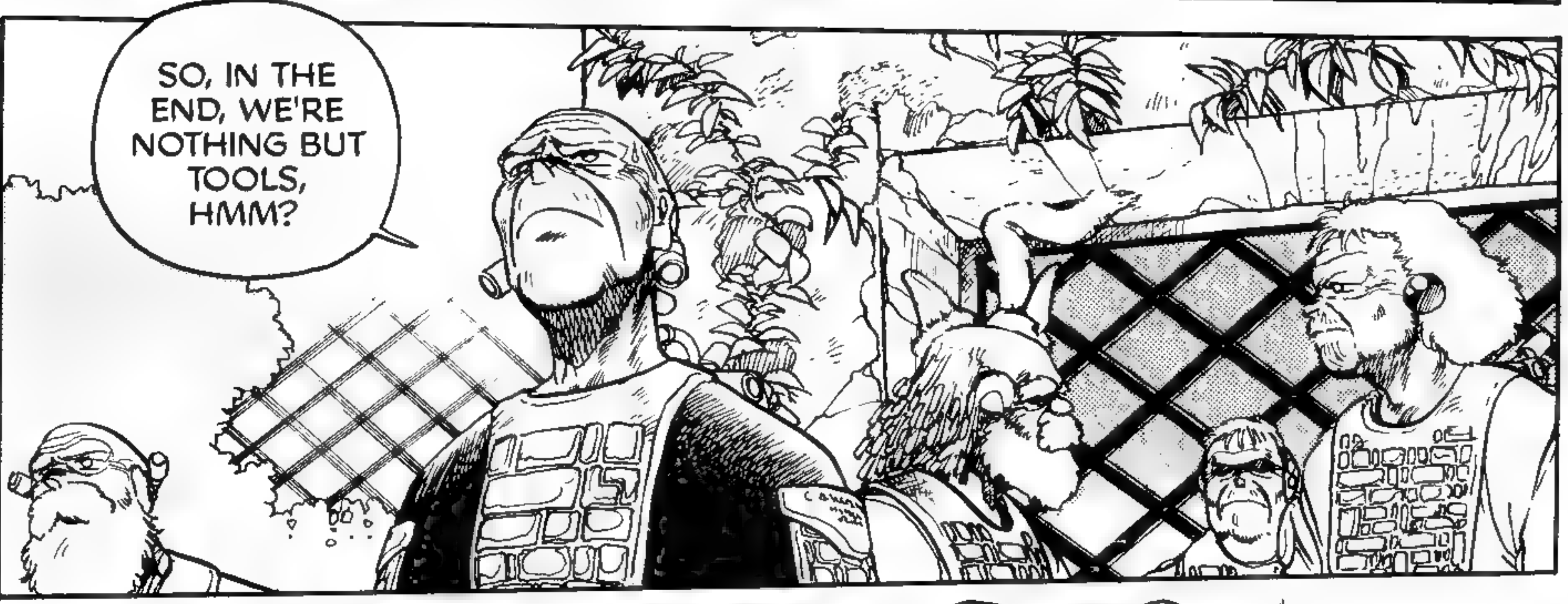


NO...





\*KASHANGG



SO, IN THE  
END, WE'RE  
NOTHING BUT  
TOOLS,  
HMM?

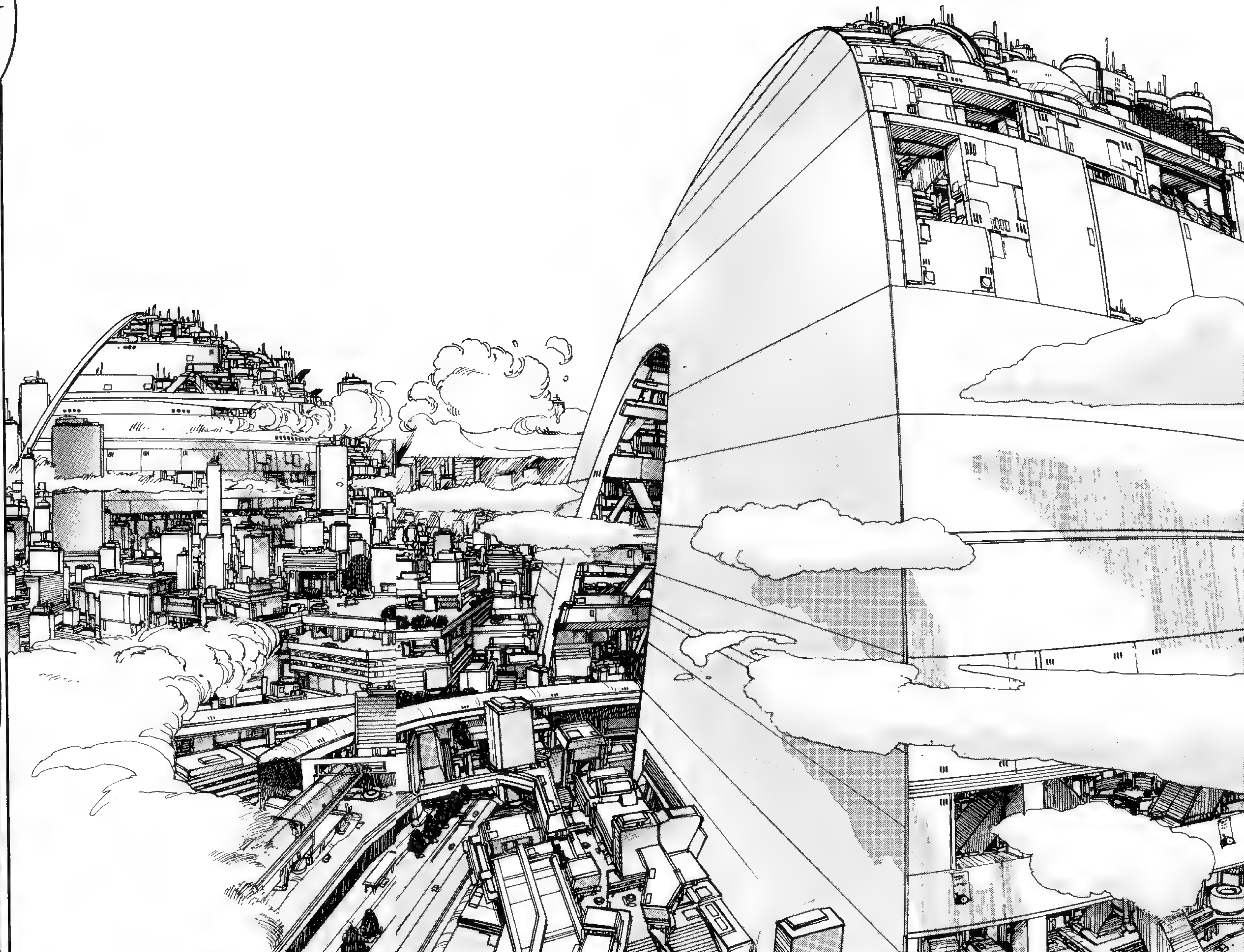
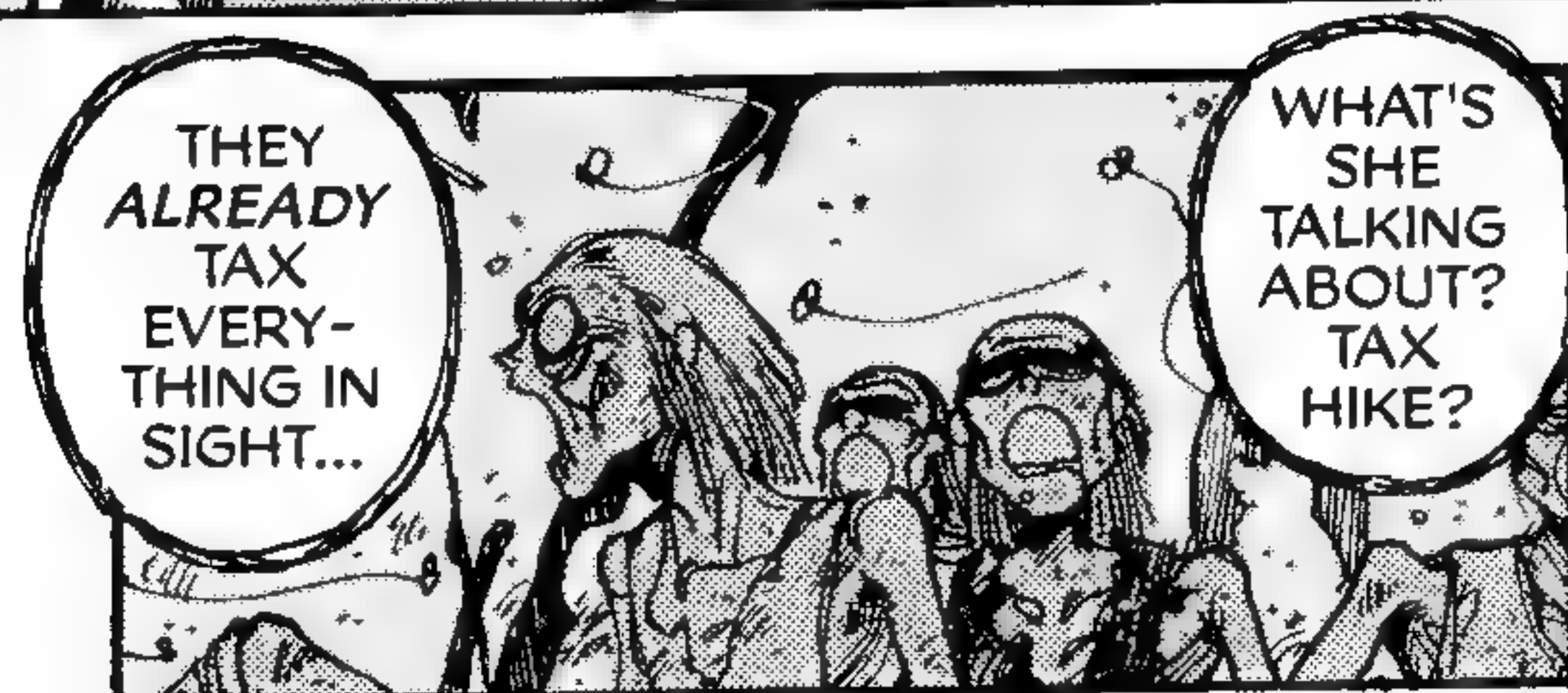
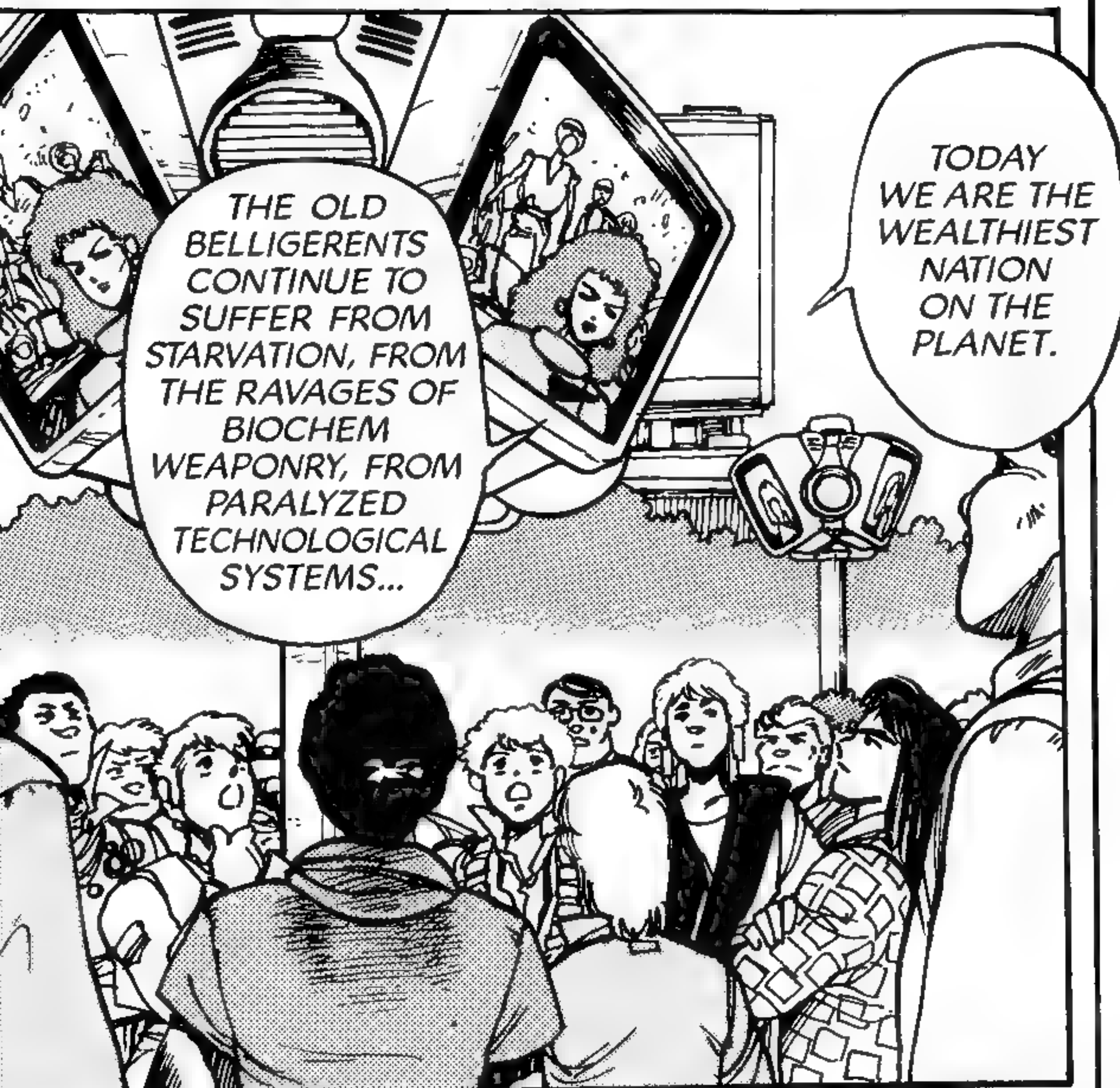


GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

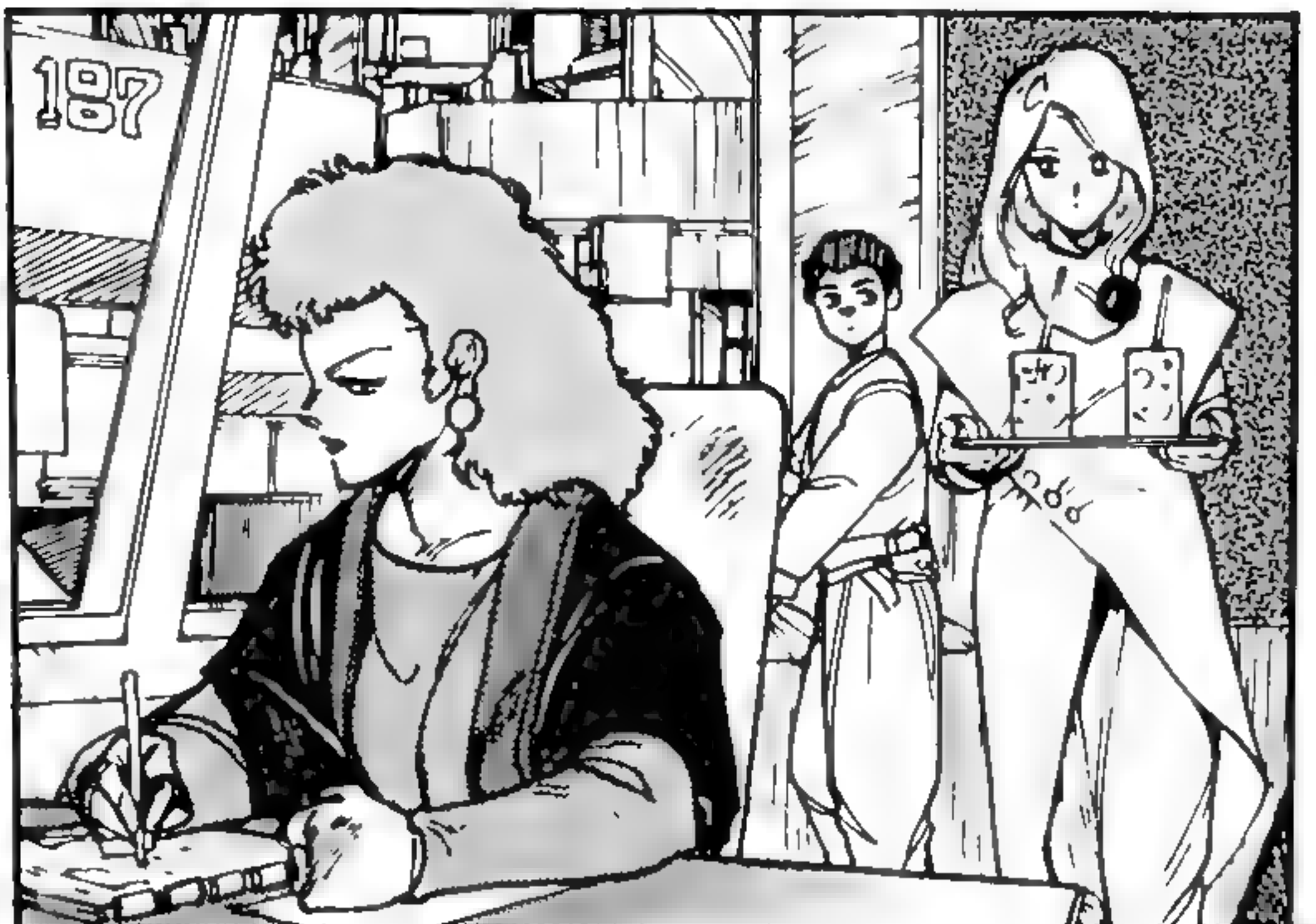
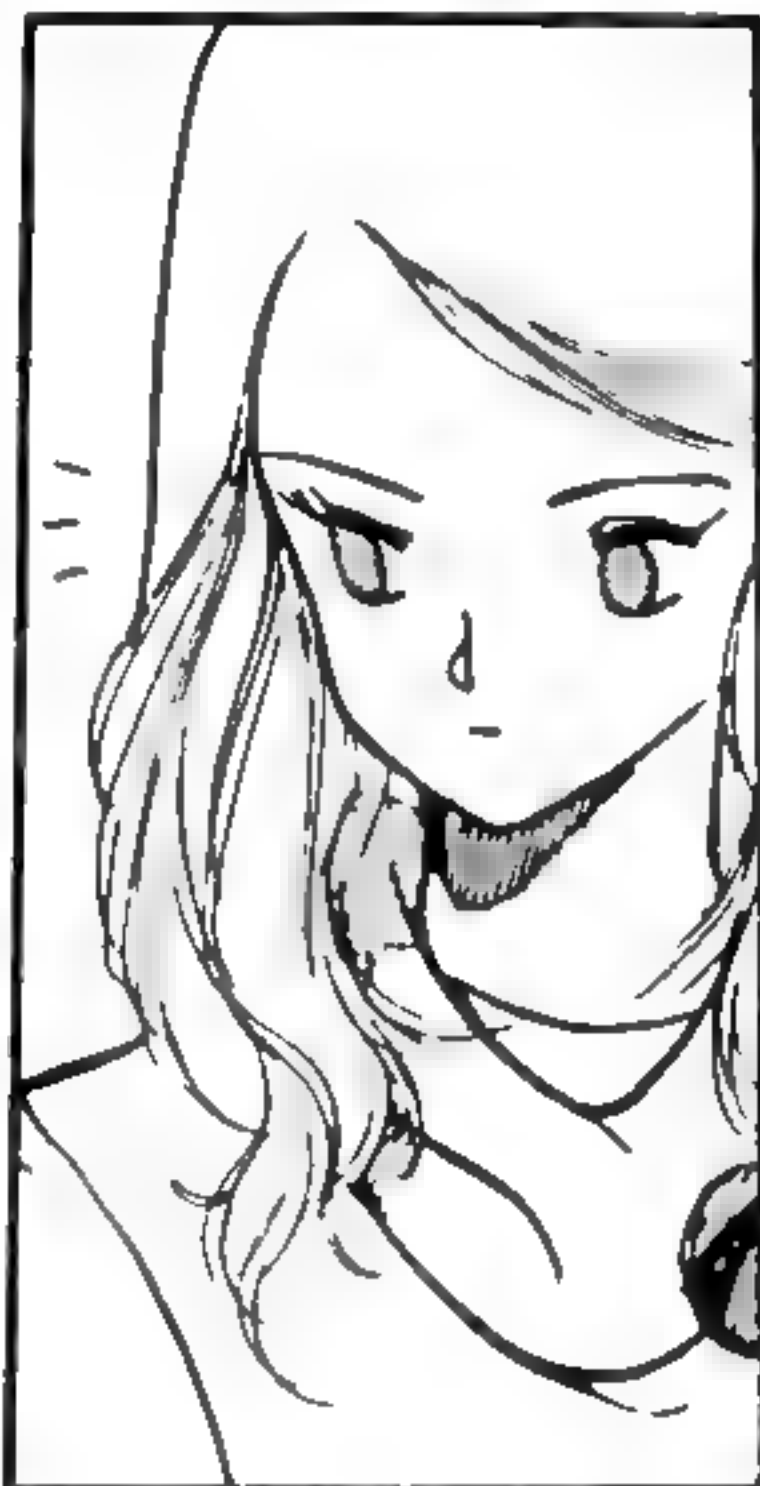
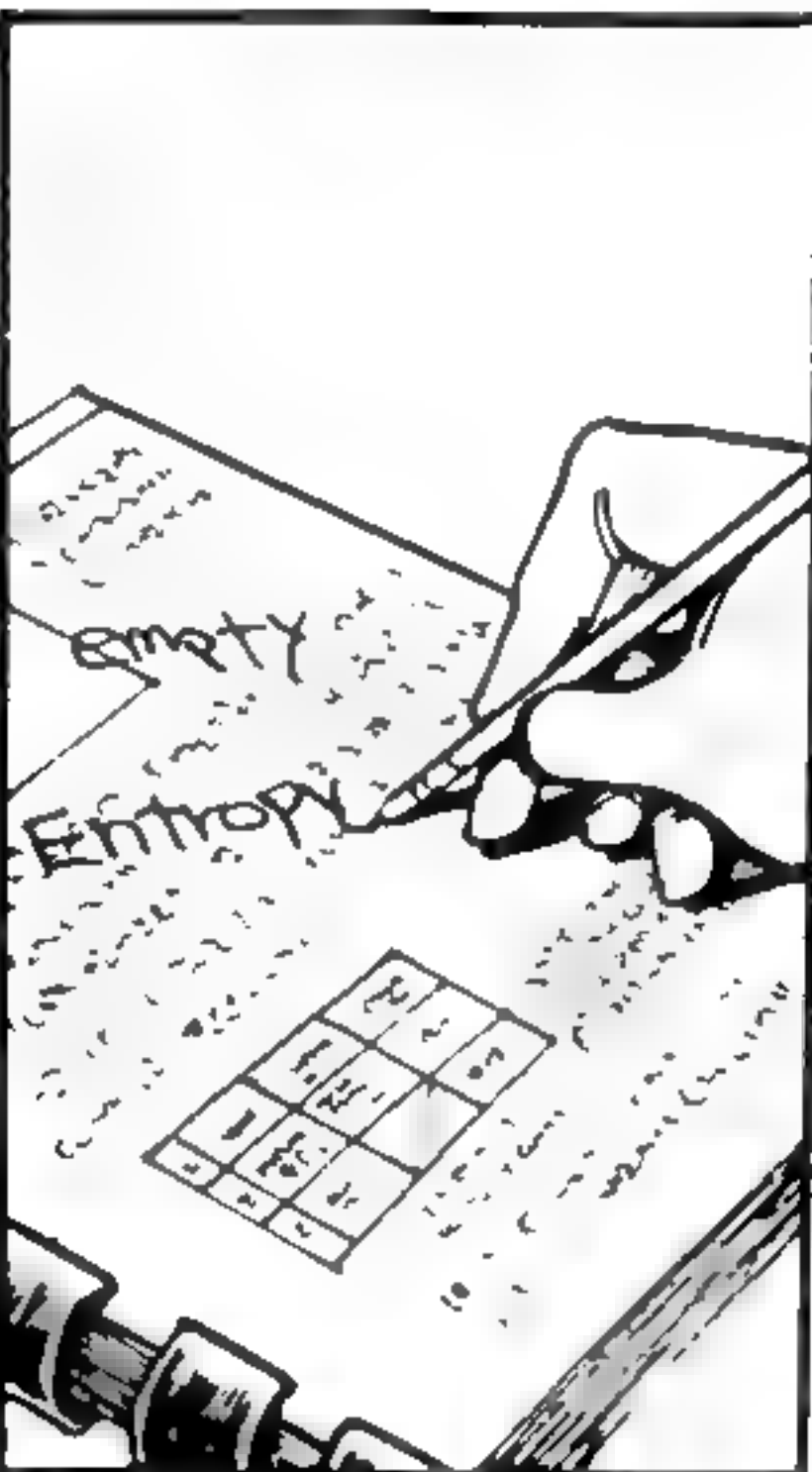
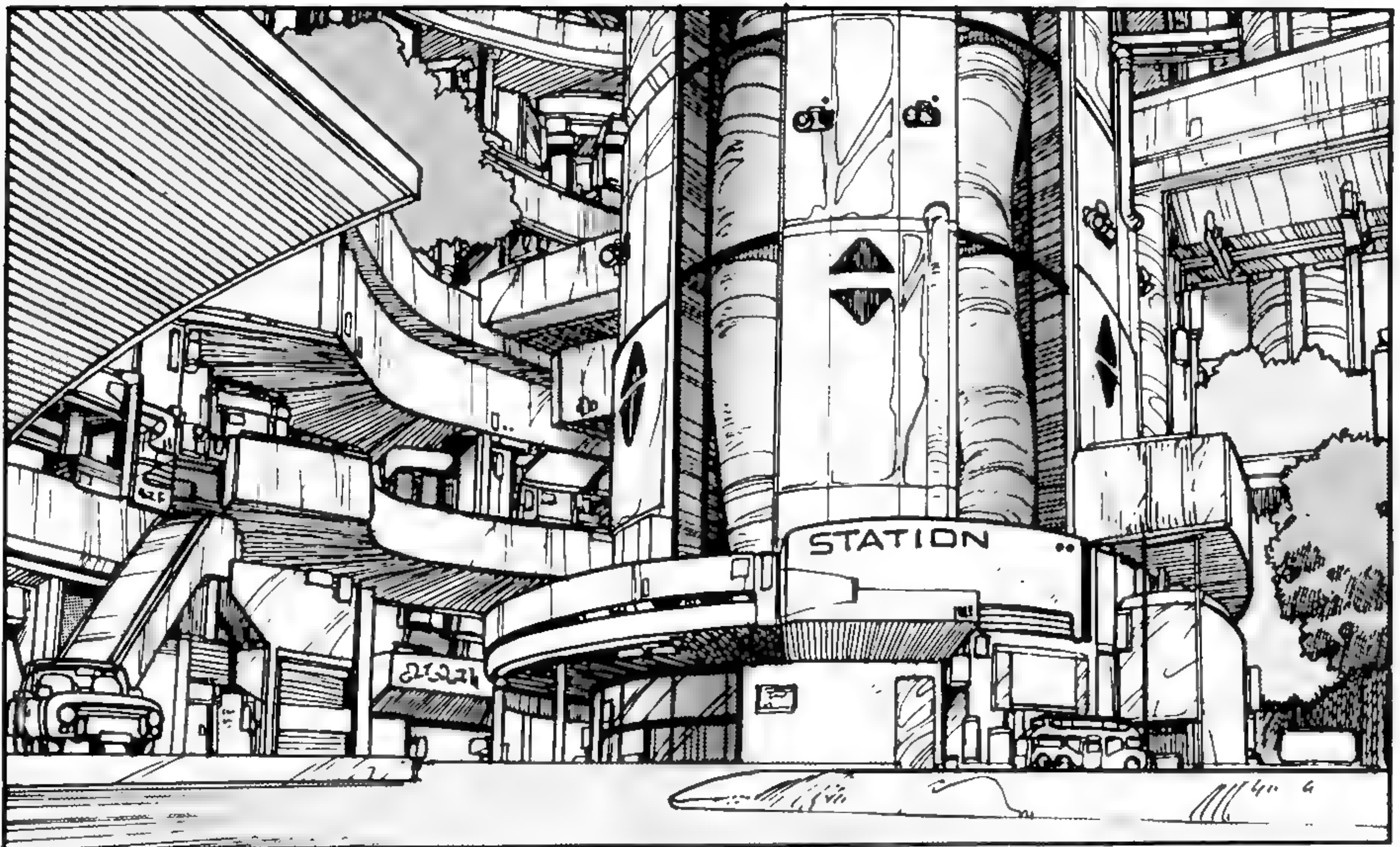
....

confinement  
!

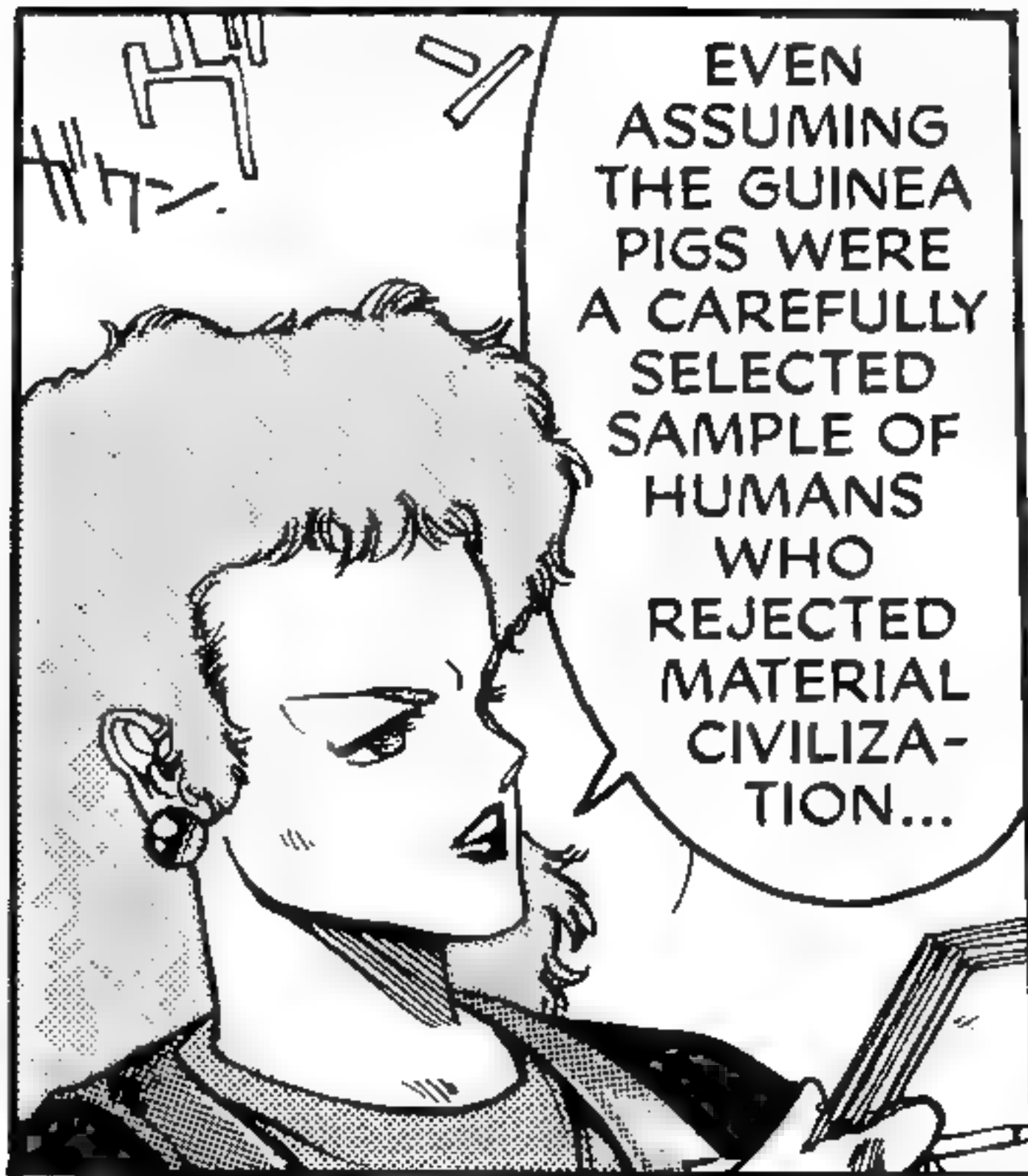




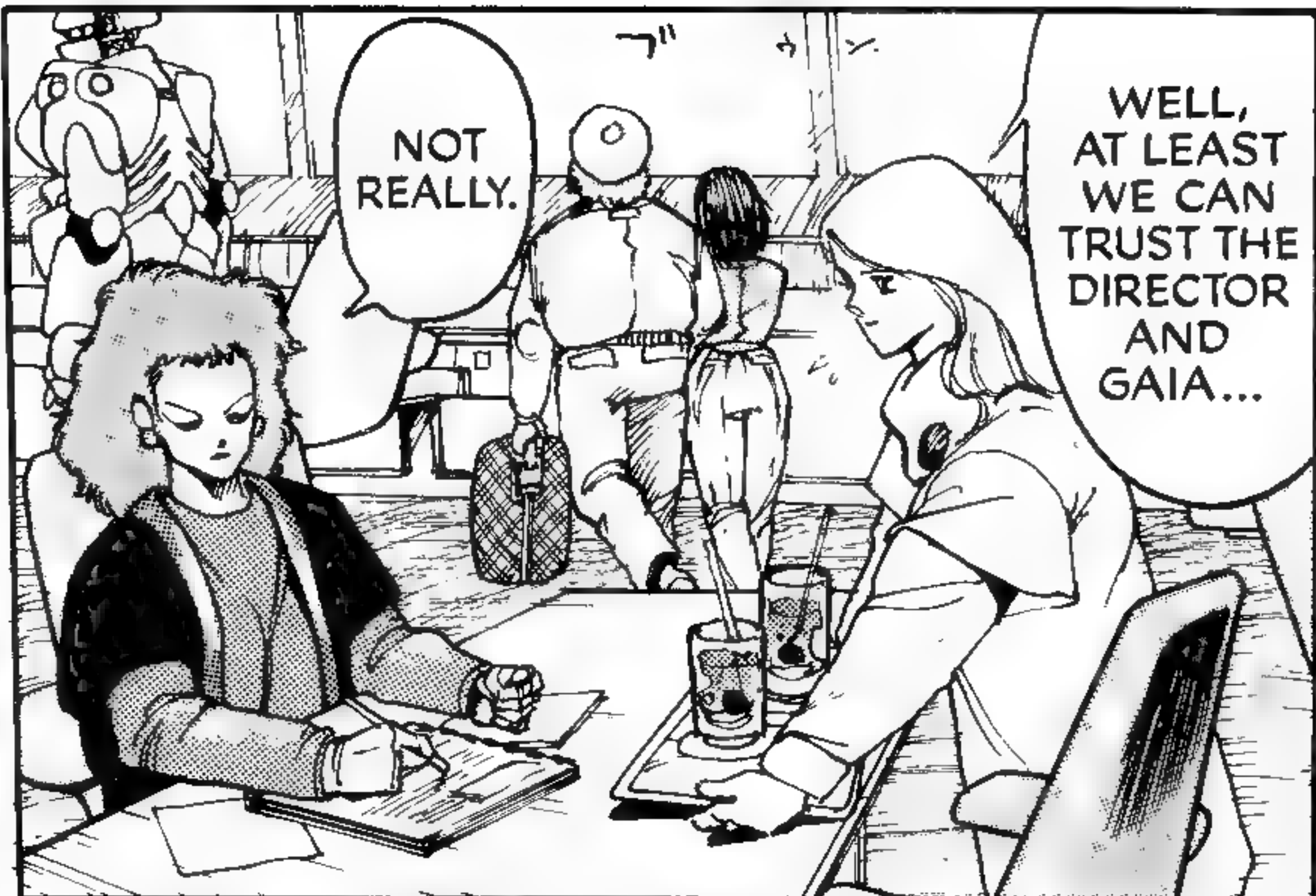






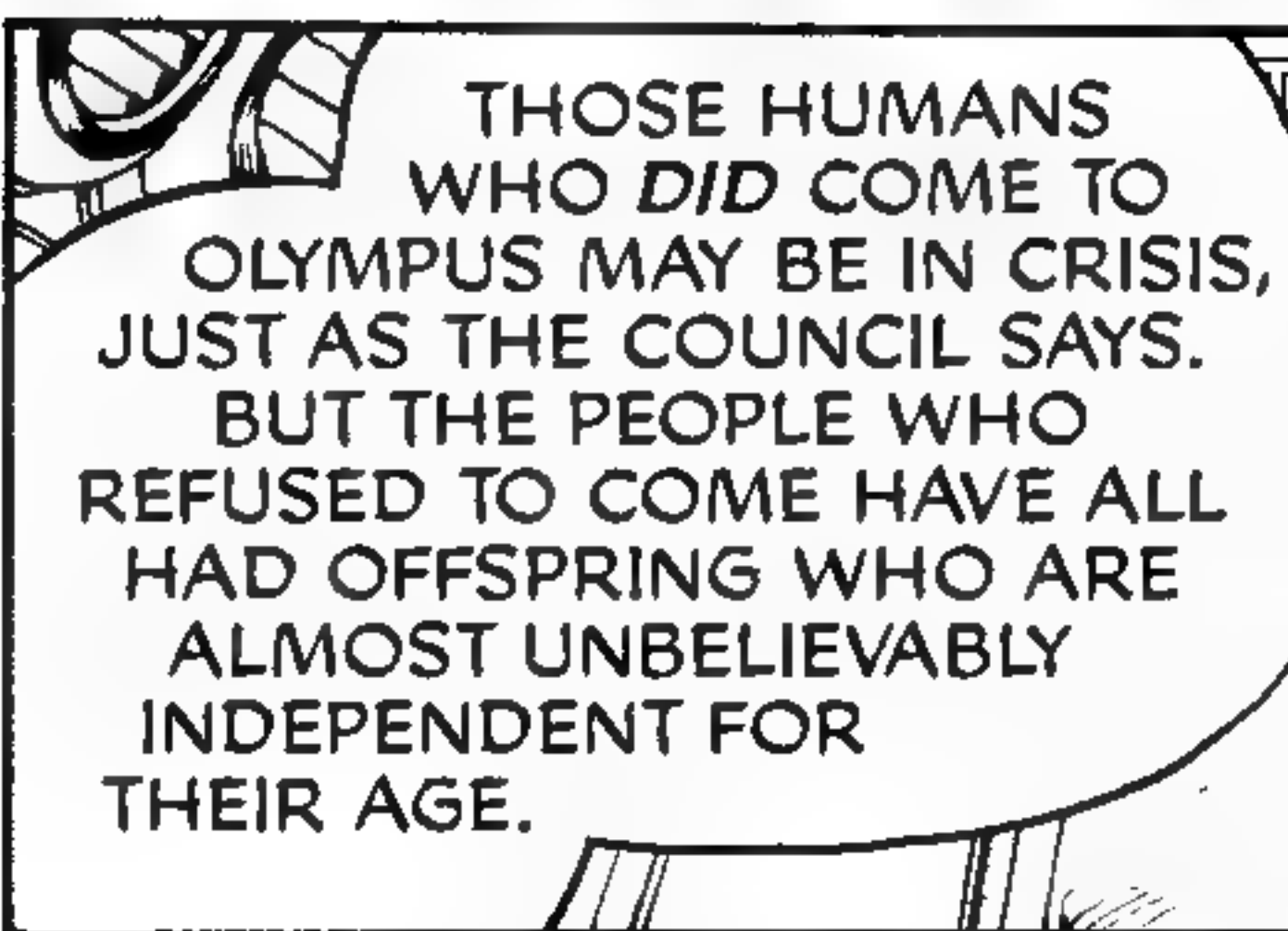


EVEN  
ASSUMING  
THE GUINEA  
PIGS WERE  
A CAREFULLY  
SELECTED  
SAMPLE OF  
HUMANS  
WHO  
REJECTED  
MATERIAL  
CIVILIZA-  
TION...

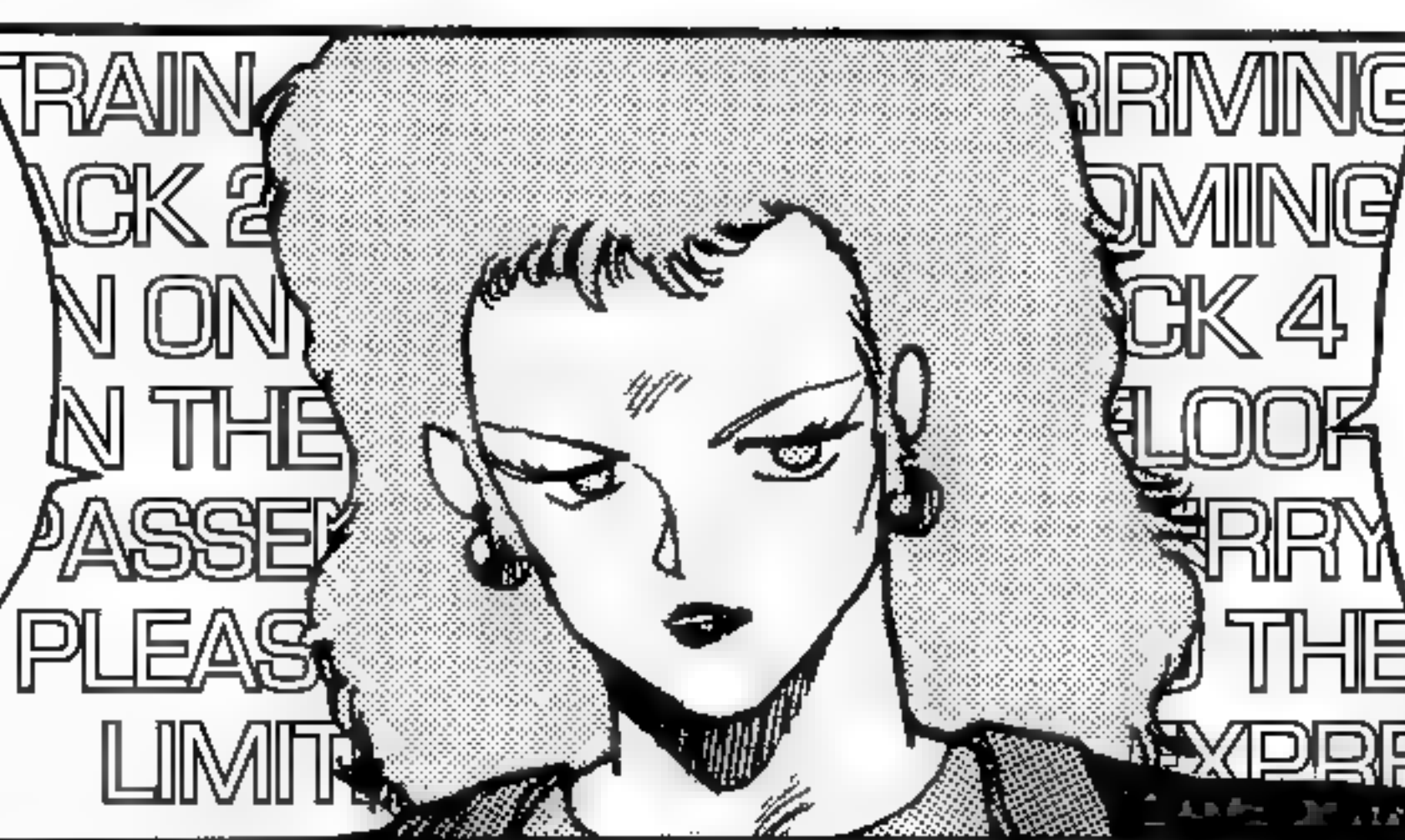


NOT  
REALLY.

WELL,  
AT LEAST  
WE CAN  
TRUST THE  
DIRECTOR  
AND  
GAIA...



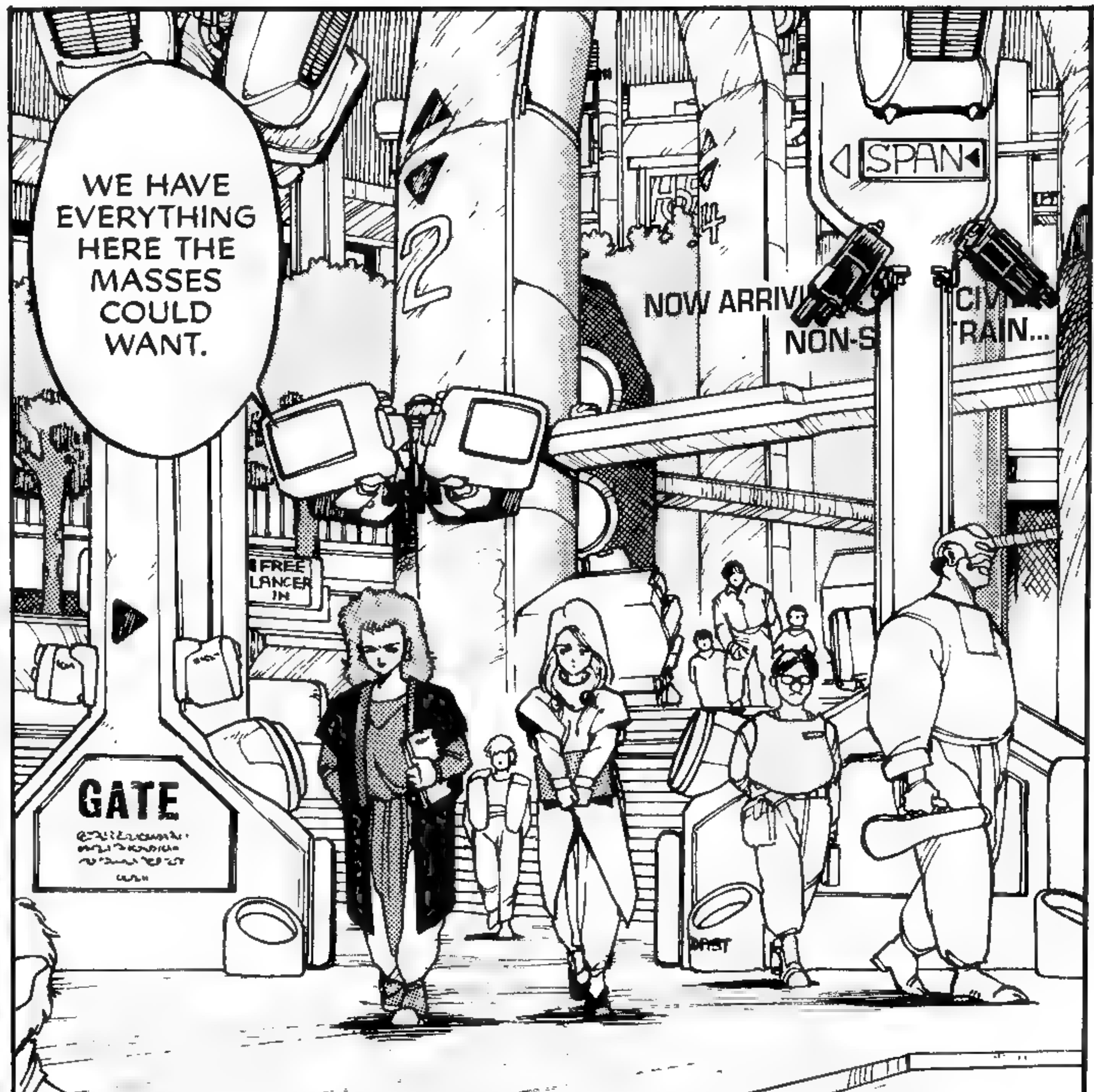
THOSE HUMANS  
WHO *DID* COME TO  
OLYMPUS MAY BE IN CRISIS,  
JUST AS THE COUNCIL SAYS.  
BUT THE PEOPLE WHO  
REFUSED TO COME HAVE ALL  
HAD OFFSPRING WHO ARE  
ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY  
INDEPENDENT FOR  
THEIR AGE.



ALL THE  
PRIMARY GENE  
DONORS WHO  
REFUSED OUR  
INVITATION TO  
IMMIGRATE TO  
OLYMPUS WERE  
LEADERS IN  
THEIR  
RESPECTIVE  
FIELDS.



PERHAPS YOU  
CAN'T RAISE  
COMPLETELY  
INDEPENDENT  
INDIVIDUALS  
WITHOUT SOME  
SUFFERING AND  
DEPRIVATION...BUT  
THAT'S WHAT THE  
MASSES *WANTED*  
FROM US.



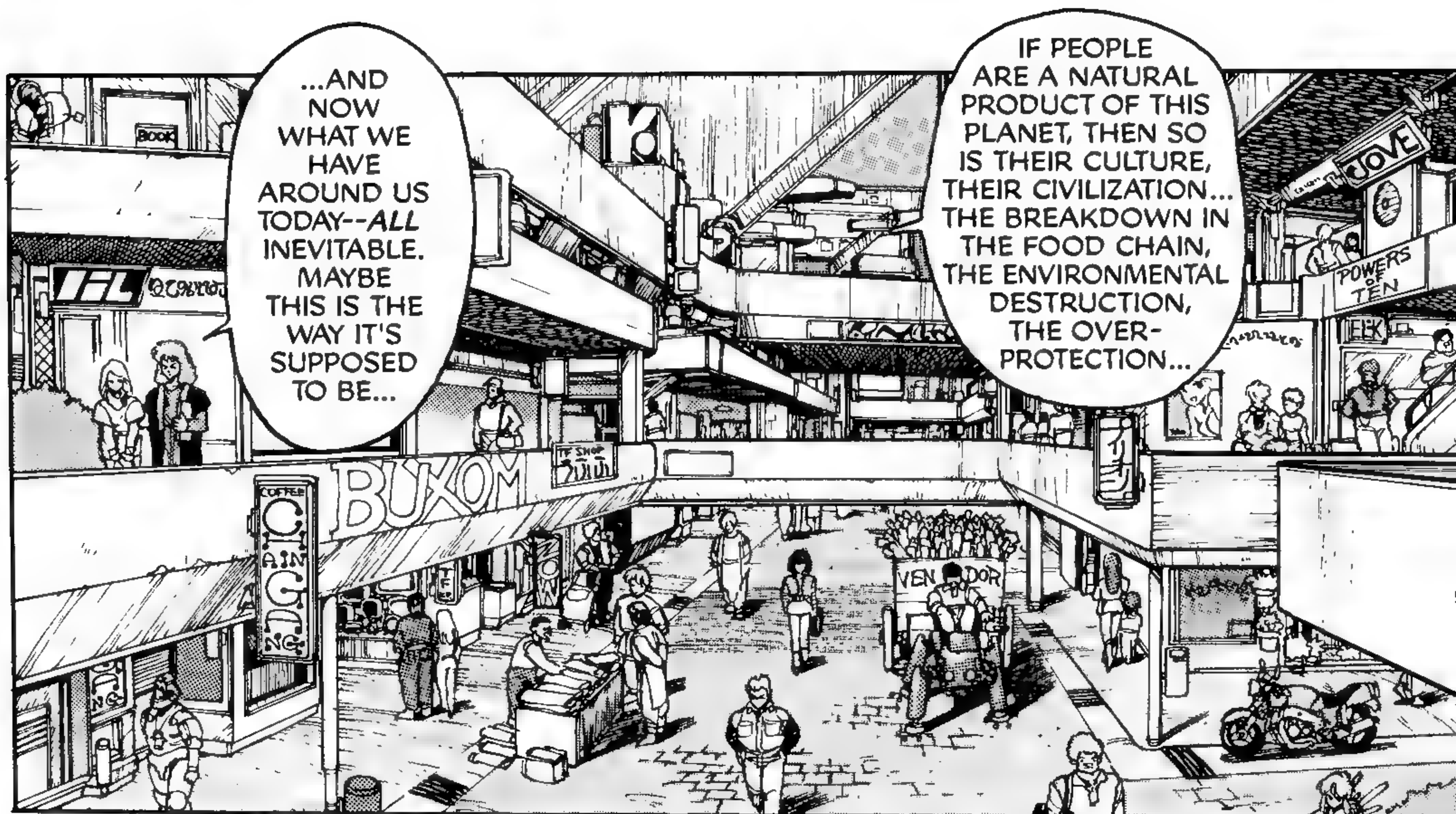
WE HAVE  
EVERYTHING  
HERE THE  
MASSES  
COULD  
WANT.

NOW ARRIVE  
NON-S

CIVIL  
RAIN...

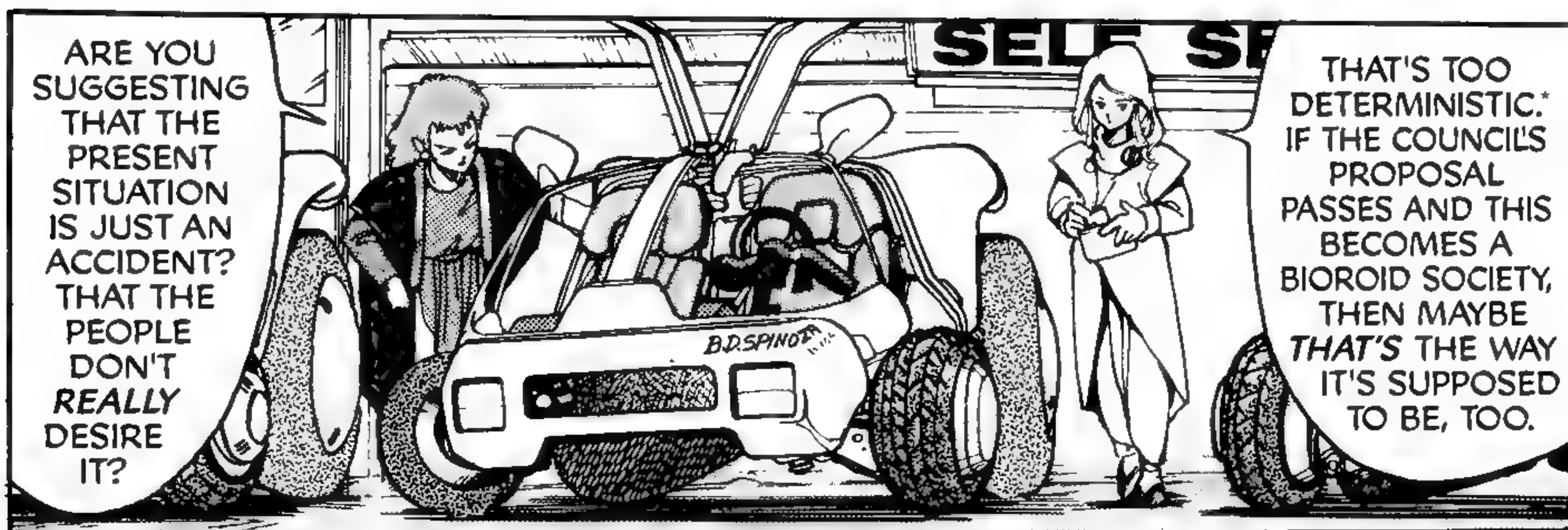
GATE





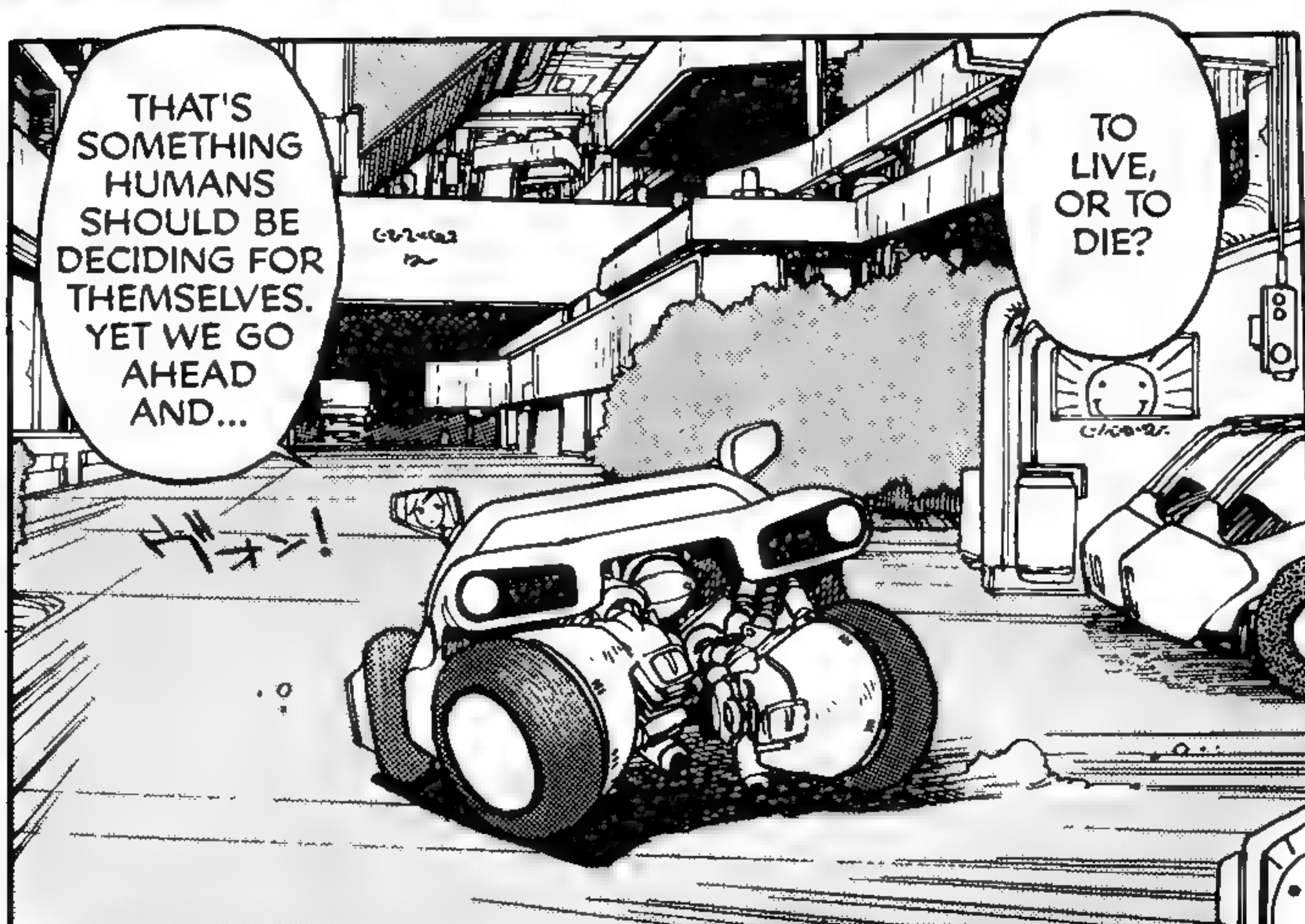
...AND NOW WHAT WE HAVE AROUND US TODAY--ALL INEVITABLE. MAYBE THIS IS THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE...

IF PEOPLE ARE A NATURAL PRODUCT OF THIS PLANET, THEN SO IS THEIR CULTURE, THEIR CIVILIZATION... THE BREAKDOWN IN THE FOOD CHAIN, THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, THE OVER-PROTECTION...



ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS JUST AN ACCIDENT? THAT THE PEOPLE DON'T REALLY DESIRE IT?

THAT'S TOO DETERMINISTIC.\* IF THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL PASSES AND THIS BECOMES A BIOROID SOCIETY, THEN MAYBE THAT'S THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE, TOO.



THAT'S SOMETHING HUMANS SHOULD BE DECIDING FOR THEMSELVES. YET WE GO AHEAD AND...

TO LIVE, OR TO DIE?

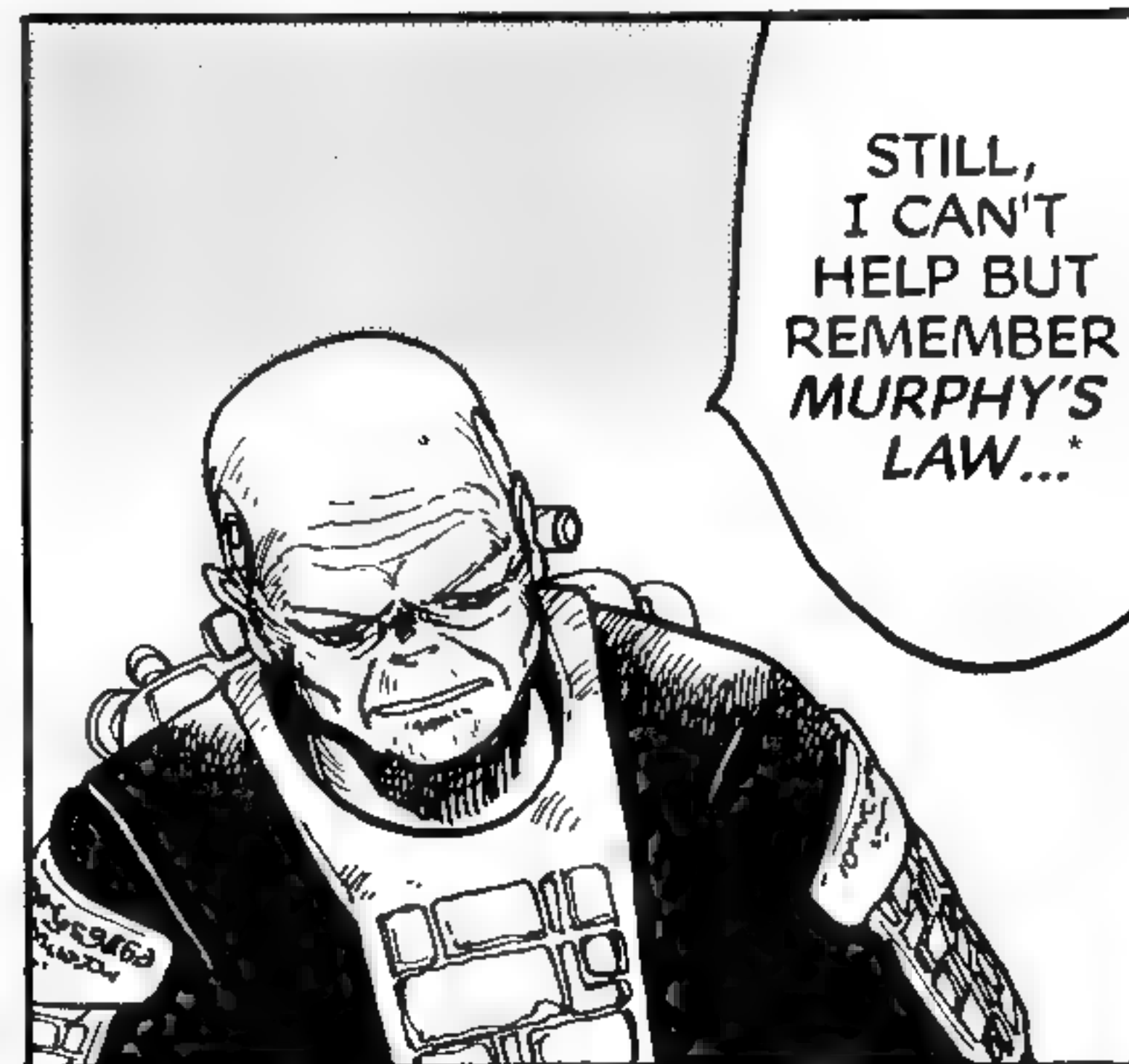
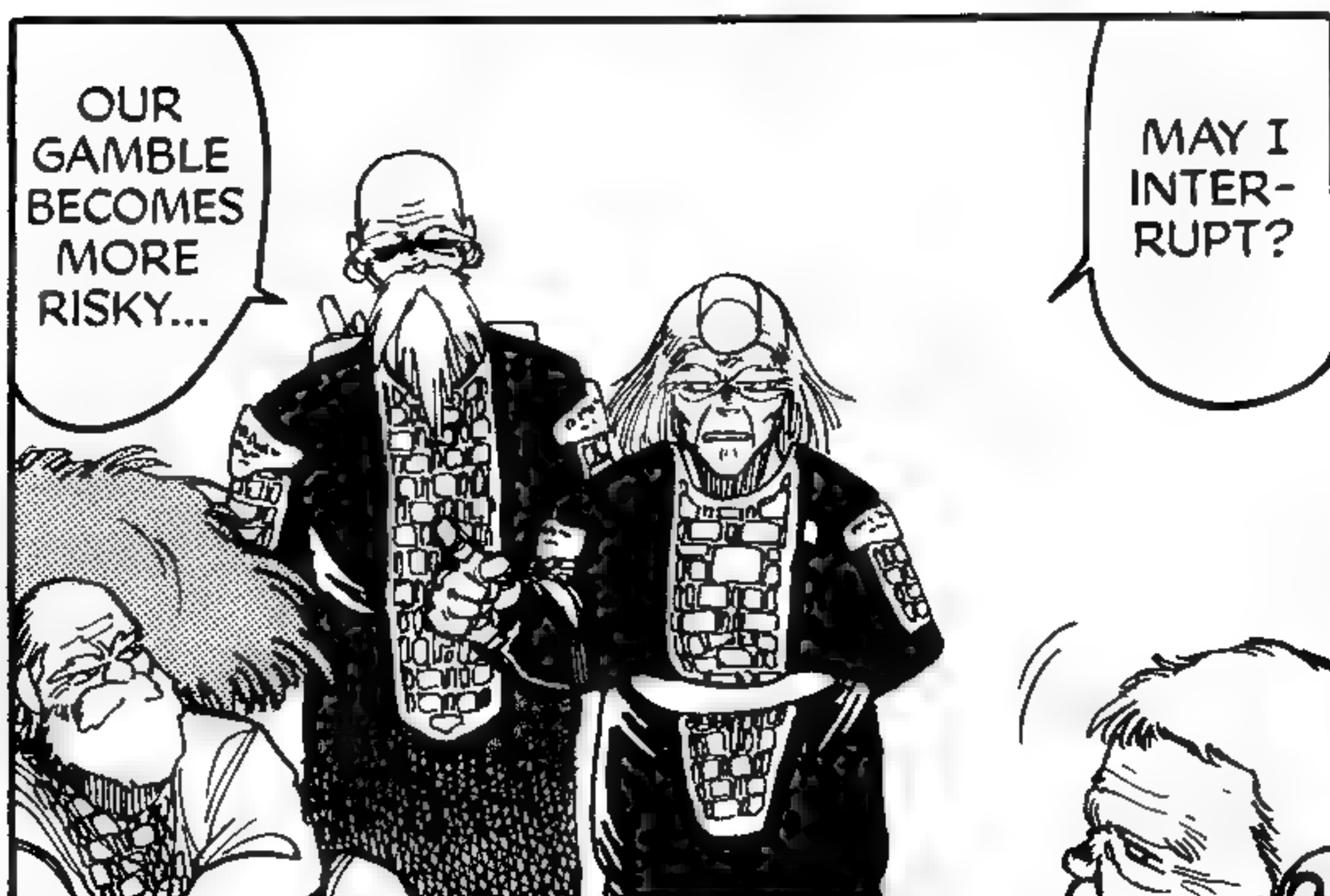
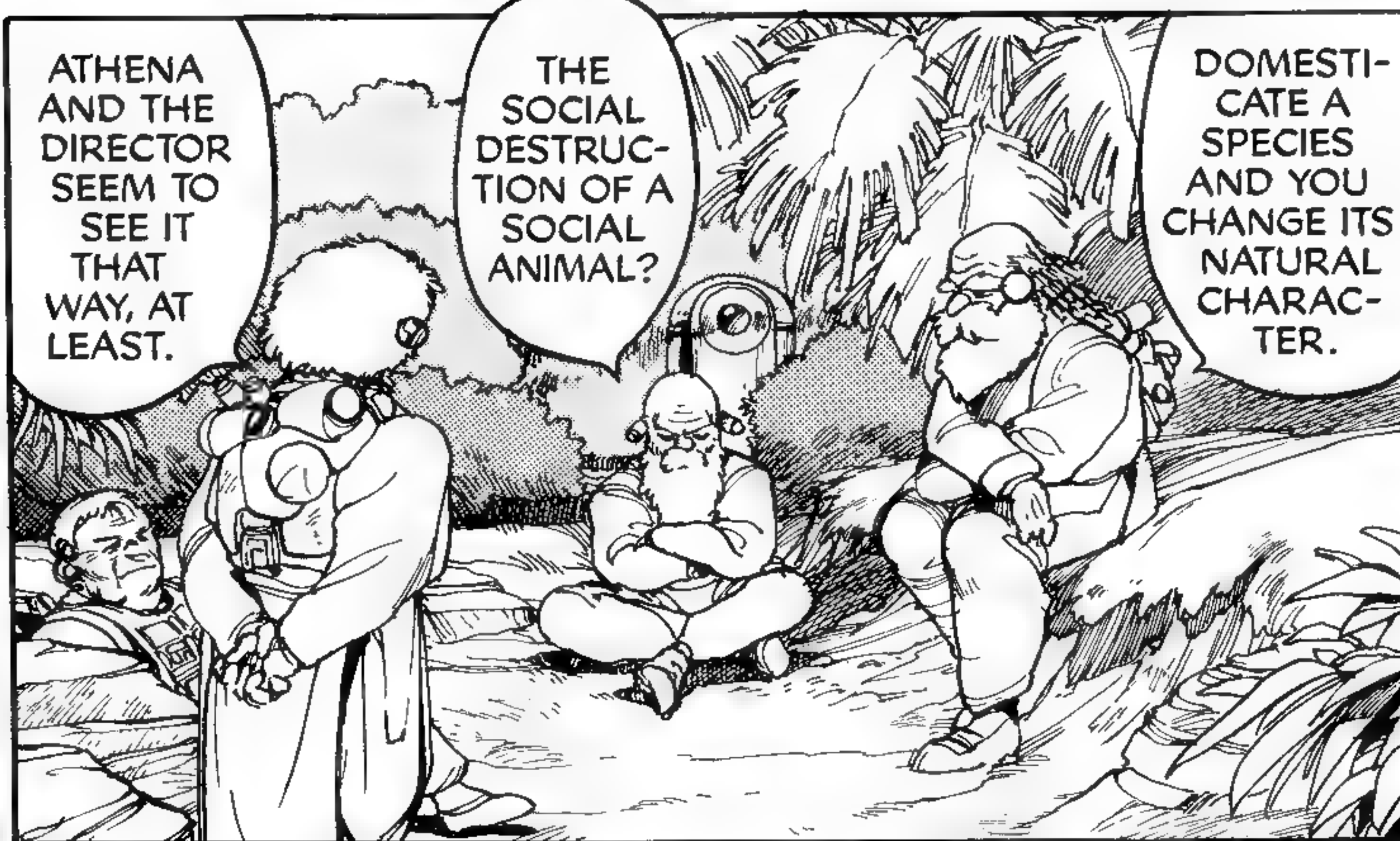
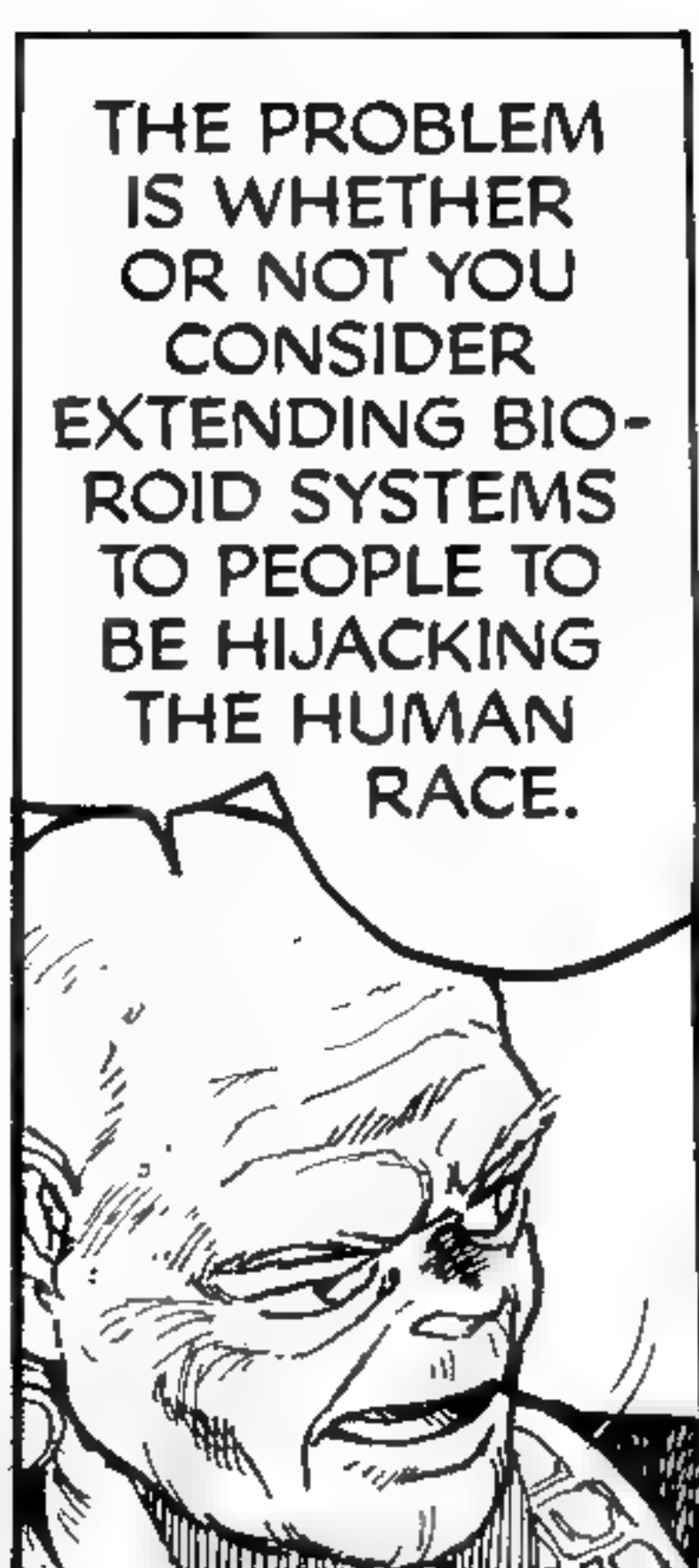


PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS CHOSEN PATHWAYS THAT LEAD TO DISASTER.

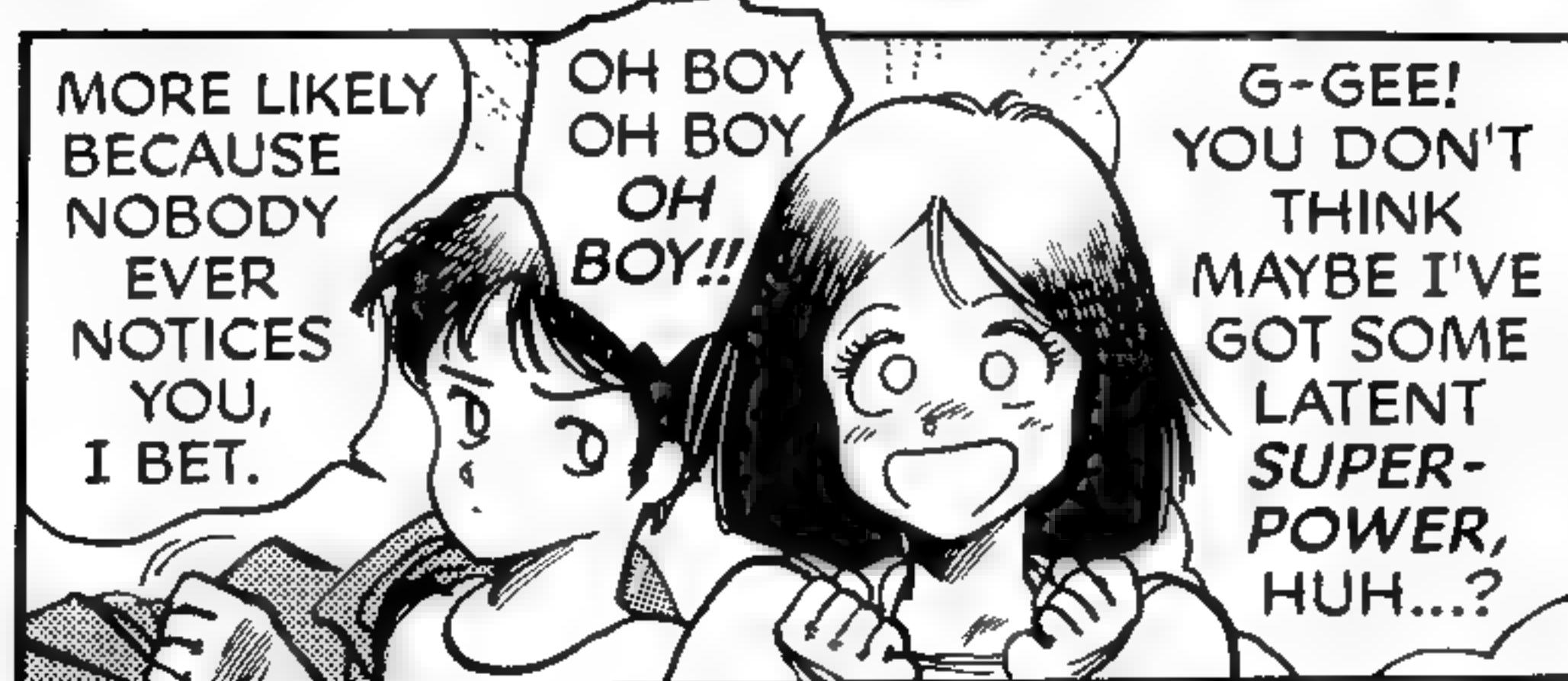
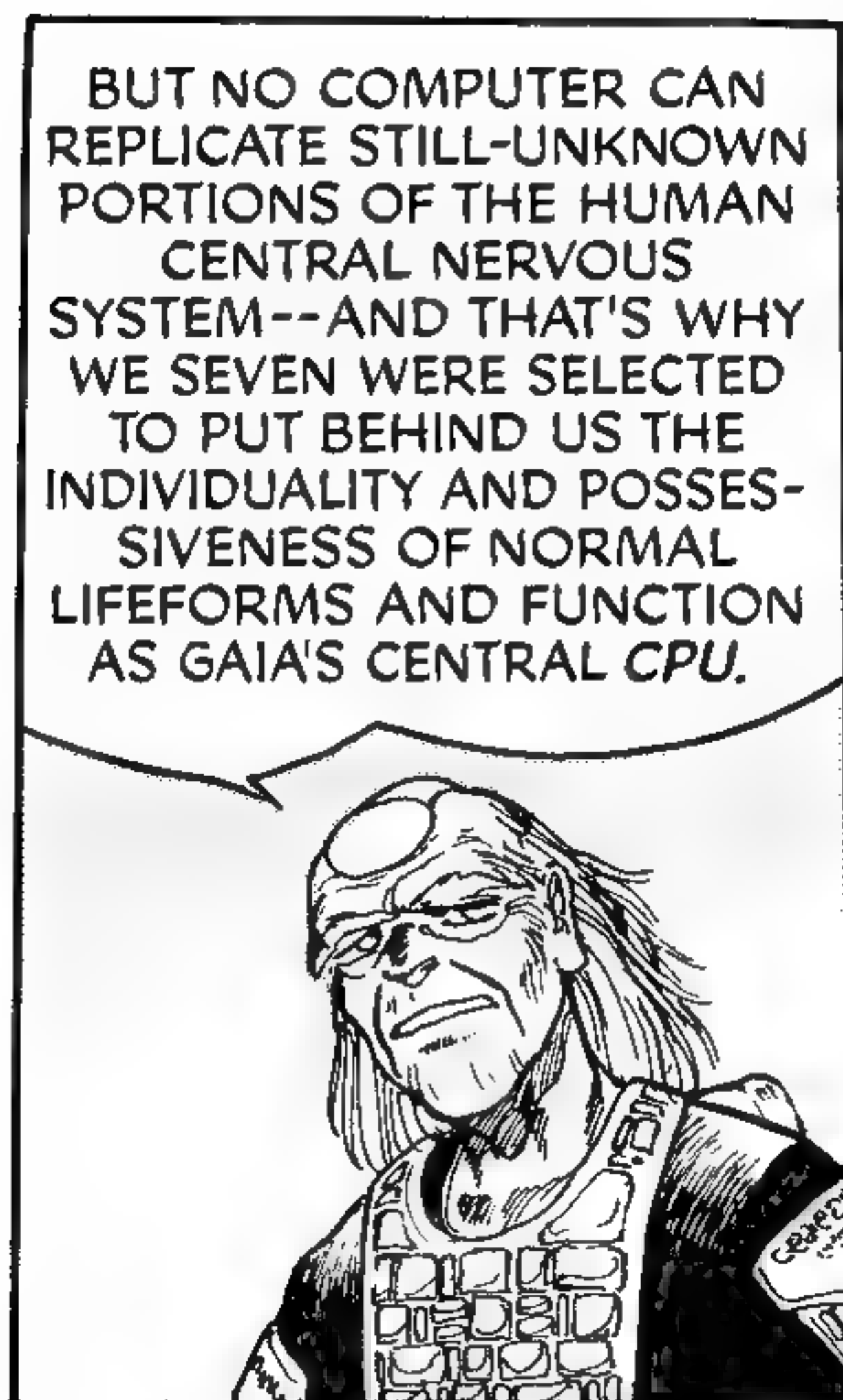
\*FX: VRMMM

\*determinism: the school of thought that future circumstances are determined exactly by causal relationships. That they are determined no more that partially due to free will and quantum mechanical accidents is indeterminism. The Greeks originated this argument.

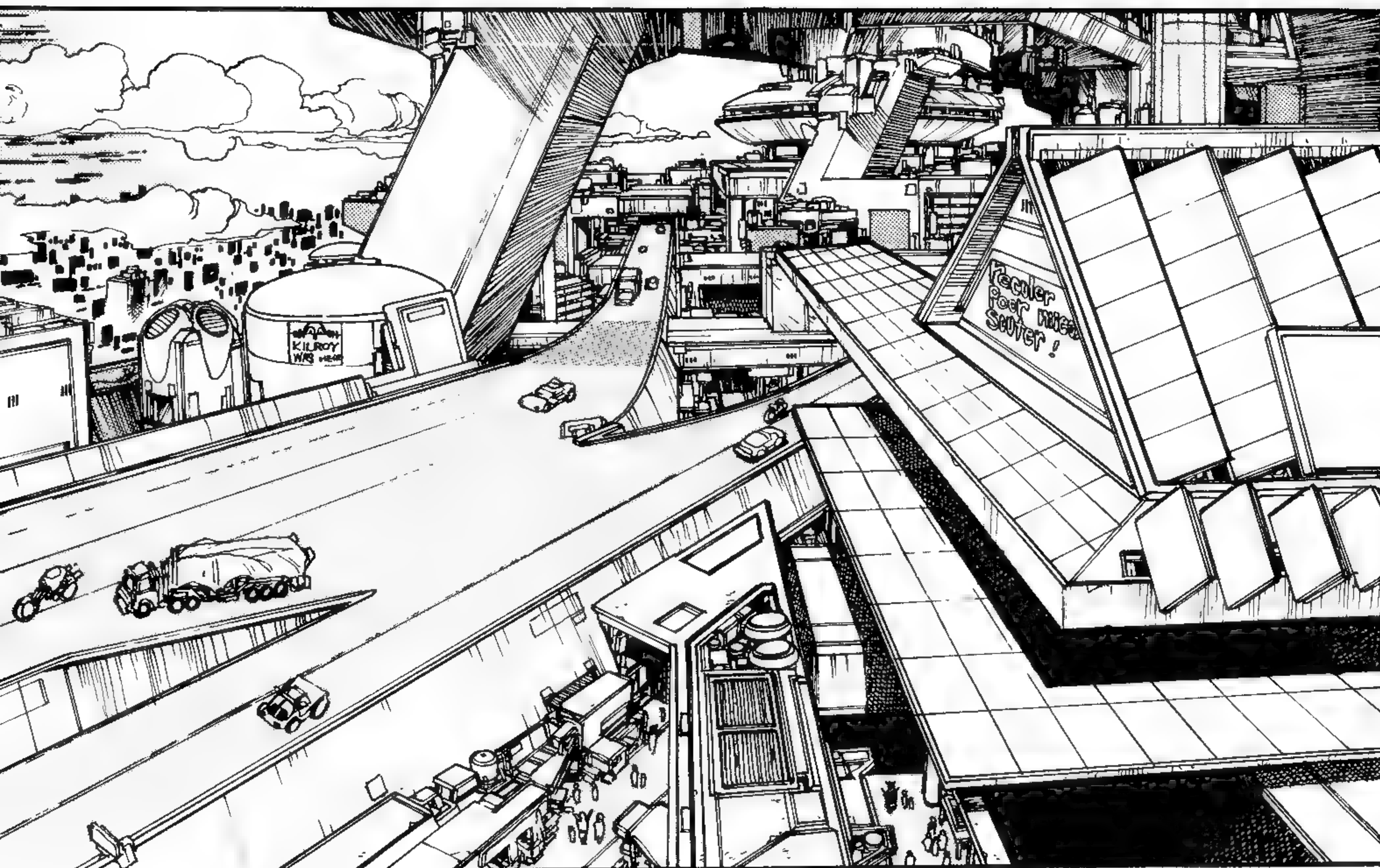






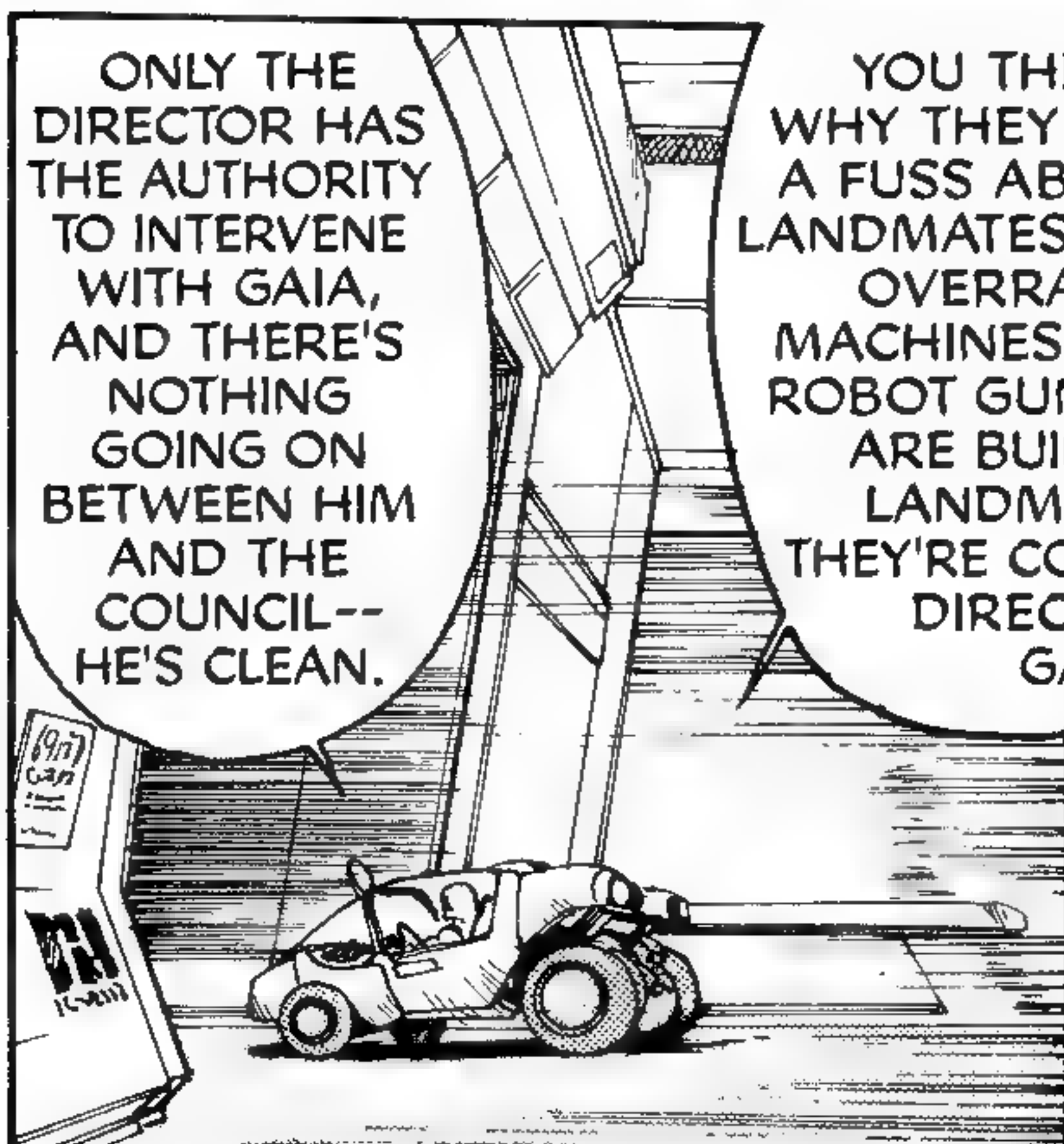
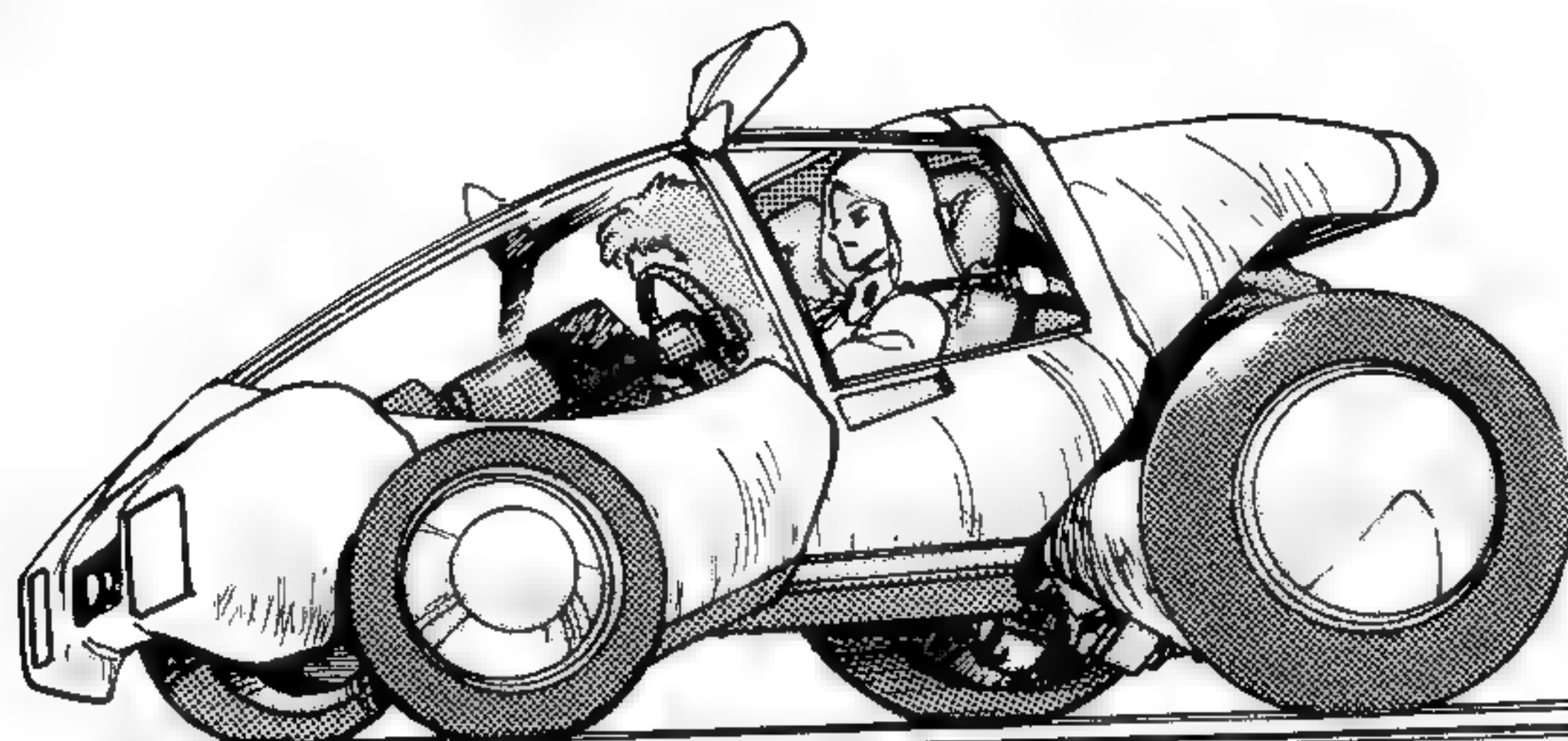






THIS IS  
PURE  
CONJEC-  
TURE...

\*VNNNN

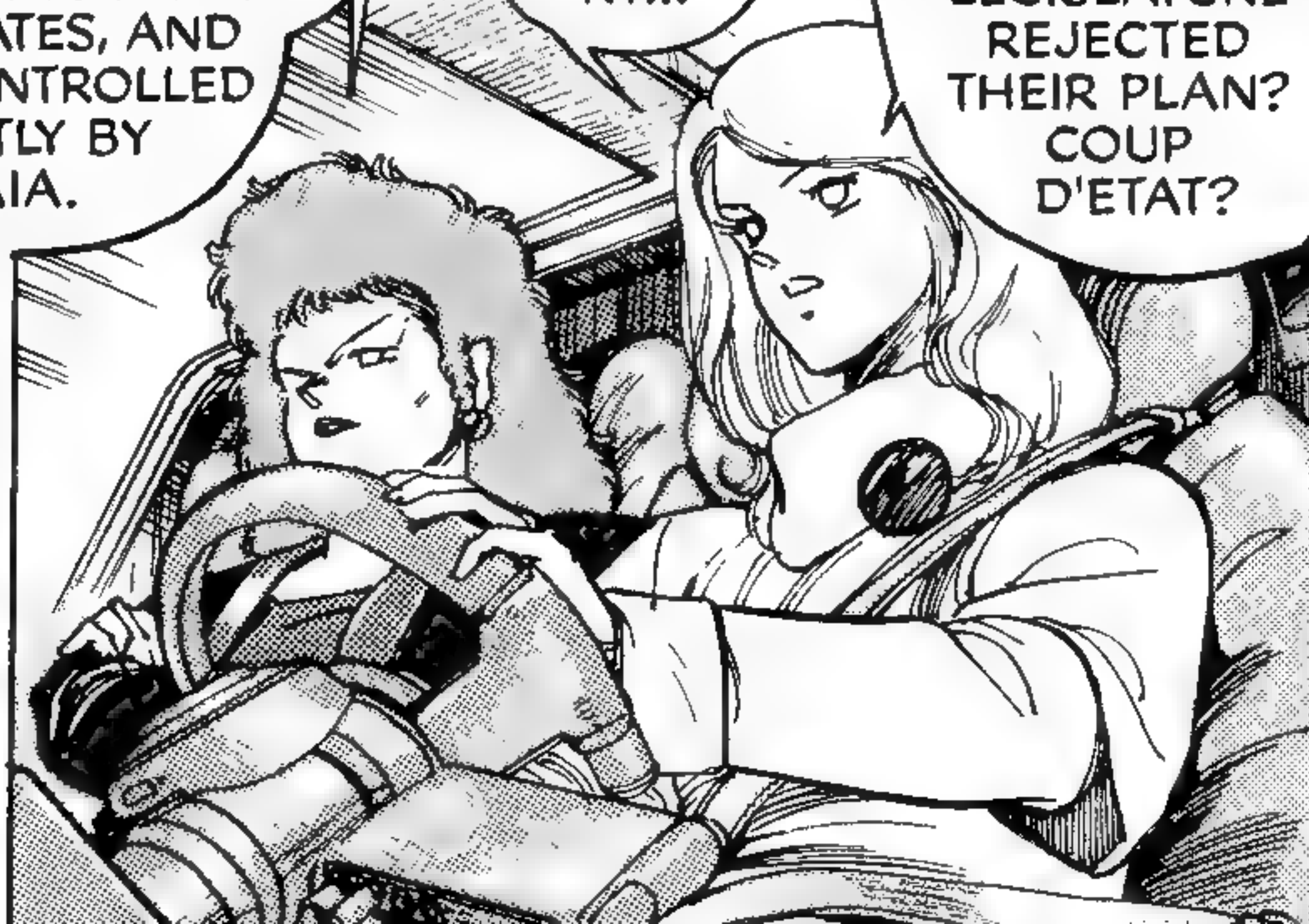


ONLY THE  
DIRECTOR HAS  
THE AUTHORITY  
TO INTERVENE  
WITH GAIA,  
AND THERE'S  
NOTHING  
GOING ON  
BETWEEN HIM  
AND THE  
COUNCIL--  
HE'S CLEAN.

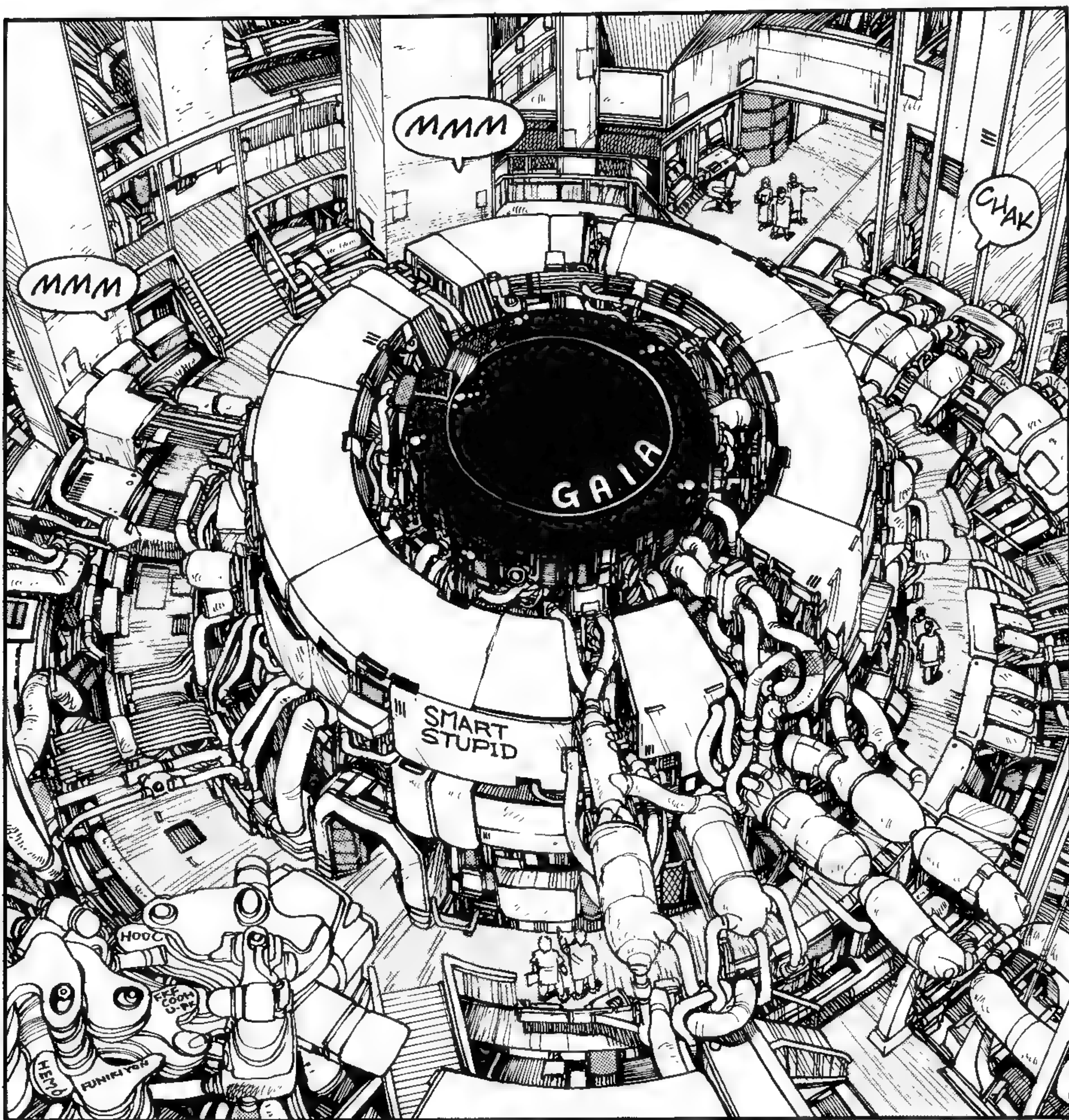
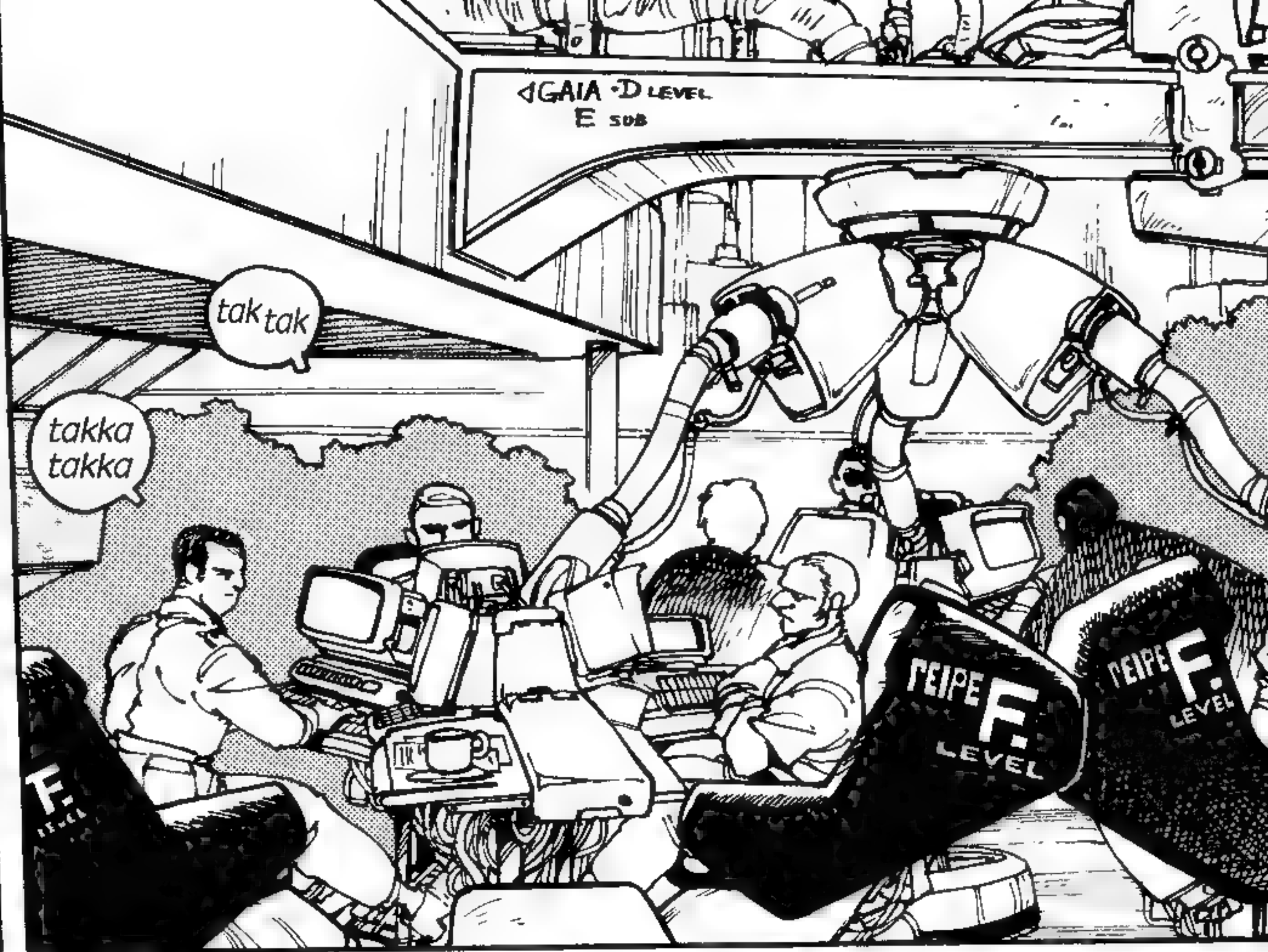
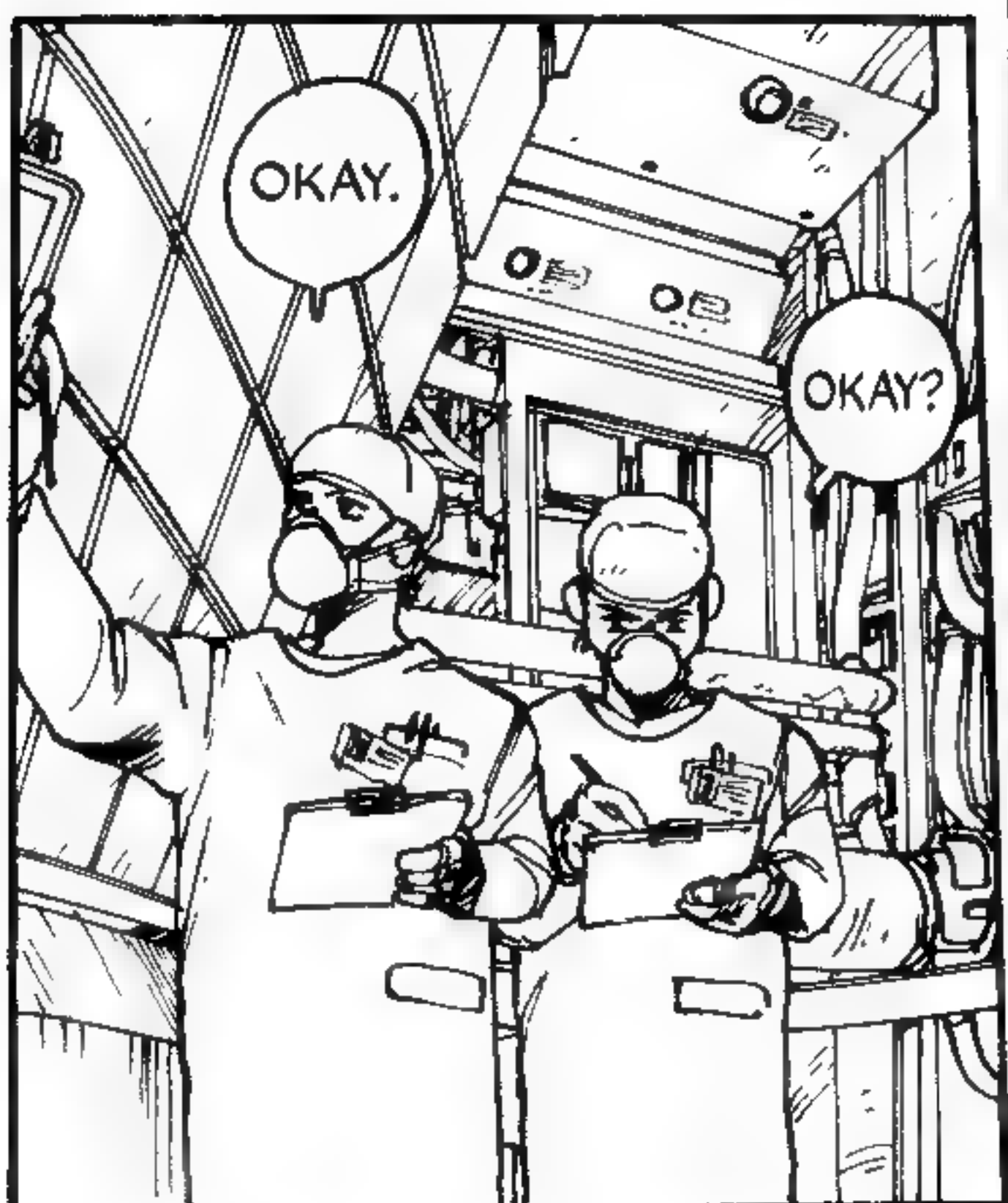
YOU THINK THAT'S  
WHY THEY DIDN'T MAKE  
A FUSS ABOUT SELLING  
LANDMATES? I THINK YOU  
OVERRATE THOSE  
MACHINES. THOSE NEW  
ROBOT GUN PLATFORMS  
ARE BUILT TO FIGHT  
LANDMATES, AND  
THEY'RE CONTROLLED  
DIRECTLY BY  
GAIA.

THAT  
WOULD  
EXPLAIN THE  
LANDMATES,  
THE BLACK  
MARKET  
WEAPON-  
RY...

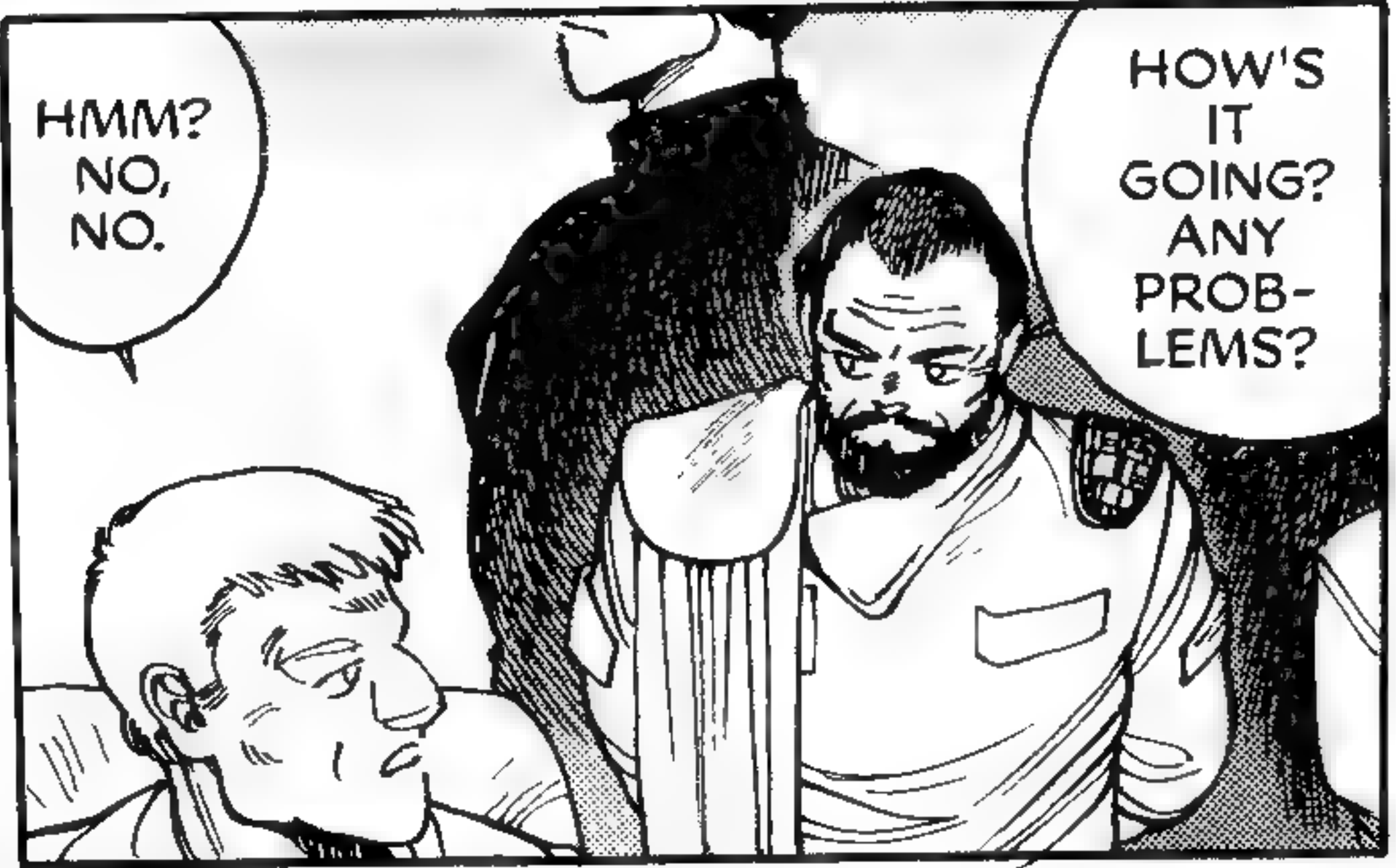
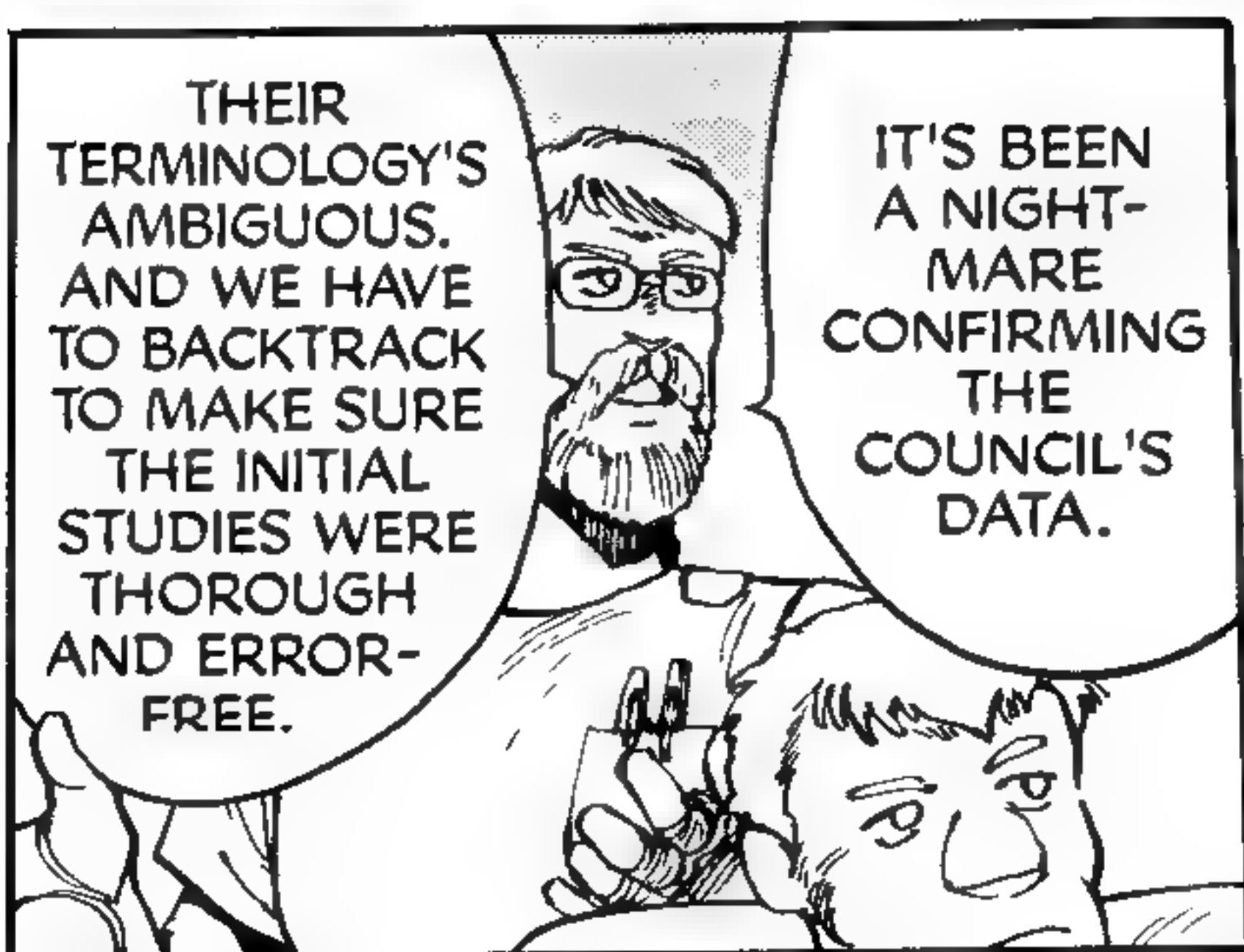
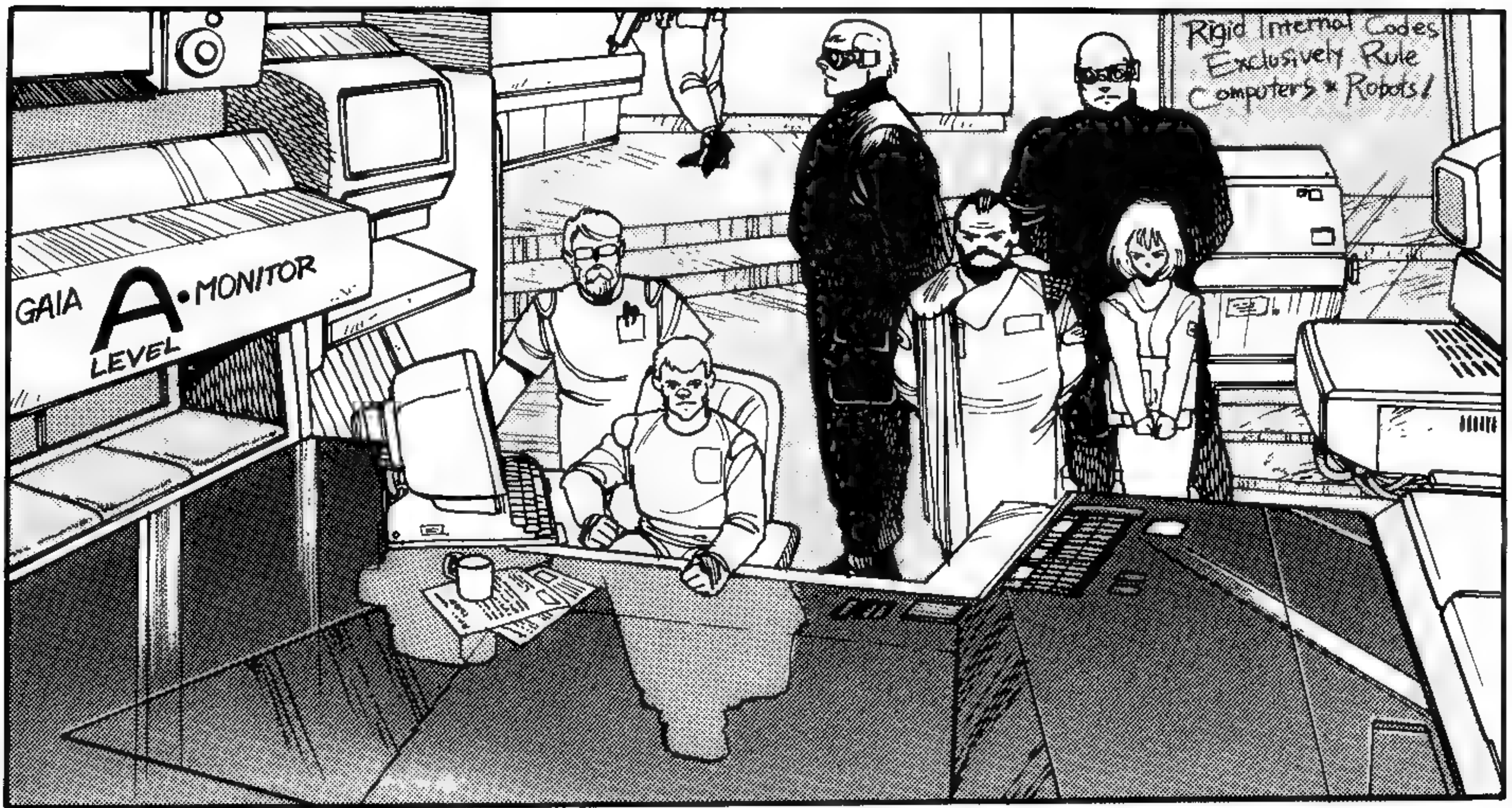
...BUT COULD  
THE COUNCIL  
HAVE BEEN  
GATHERING  
THOSE GUINEA  
PIGS JUST IN  
CASE THE  
LEGISLATURE  
REJECTED  
THEIR PLAN?  
COUP  
D'ETAT?



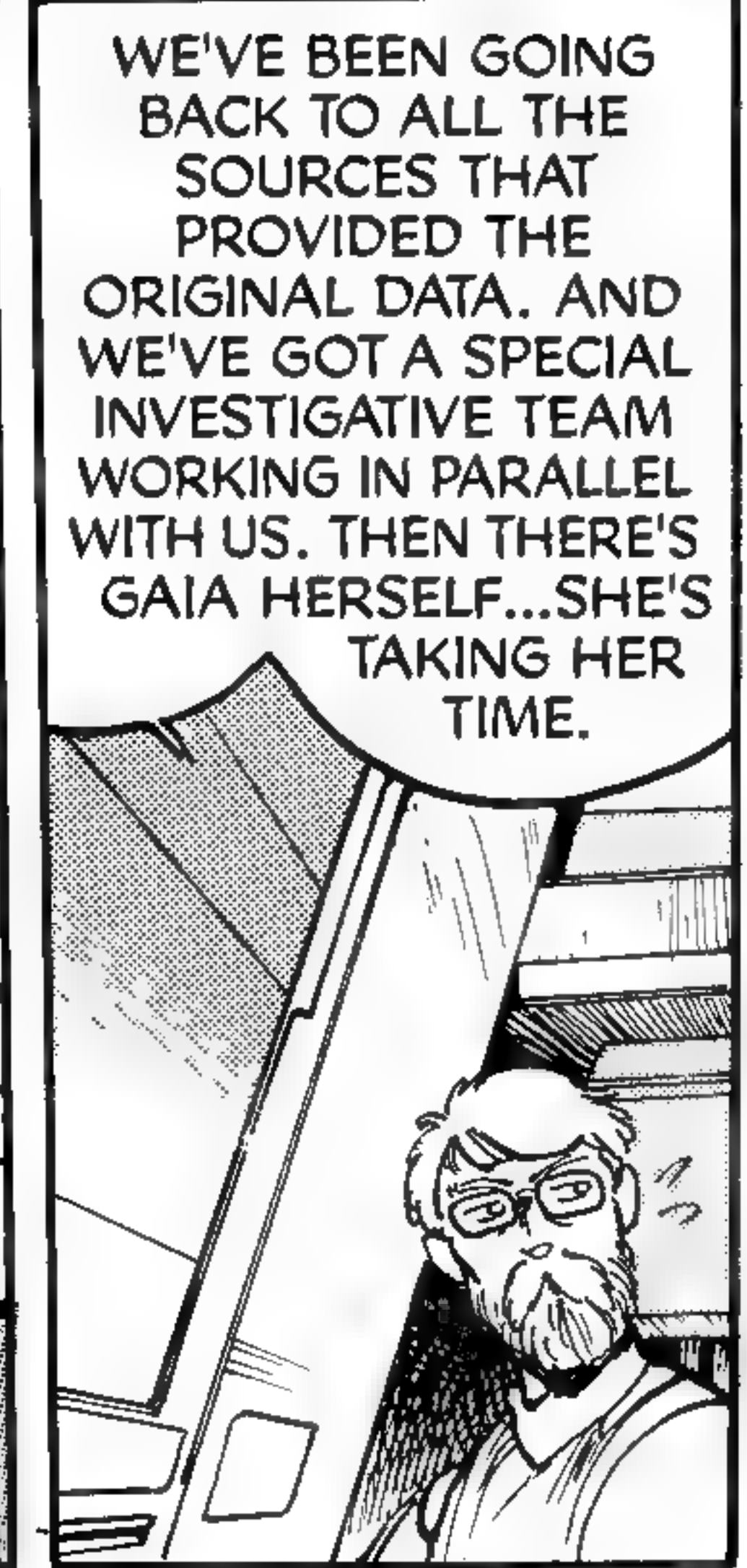






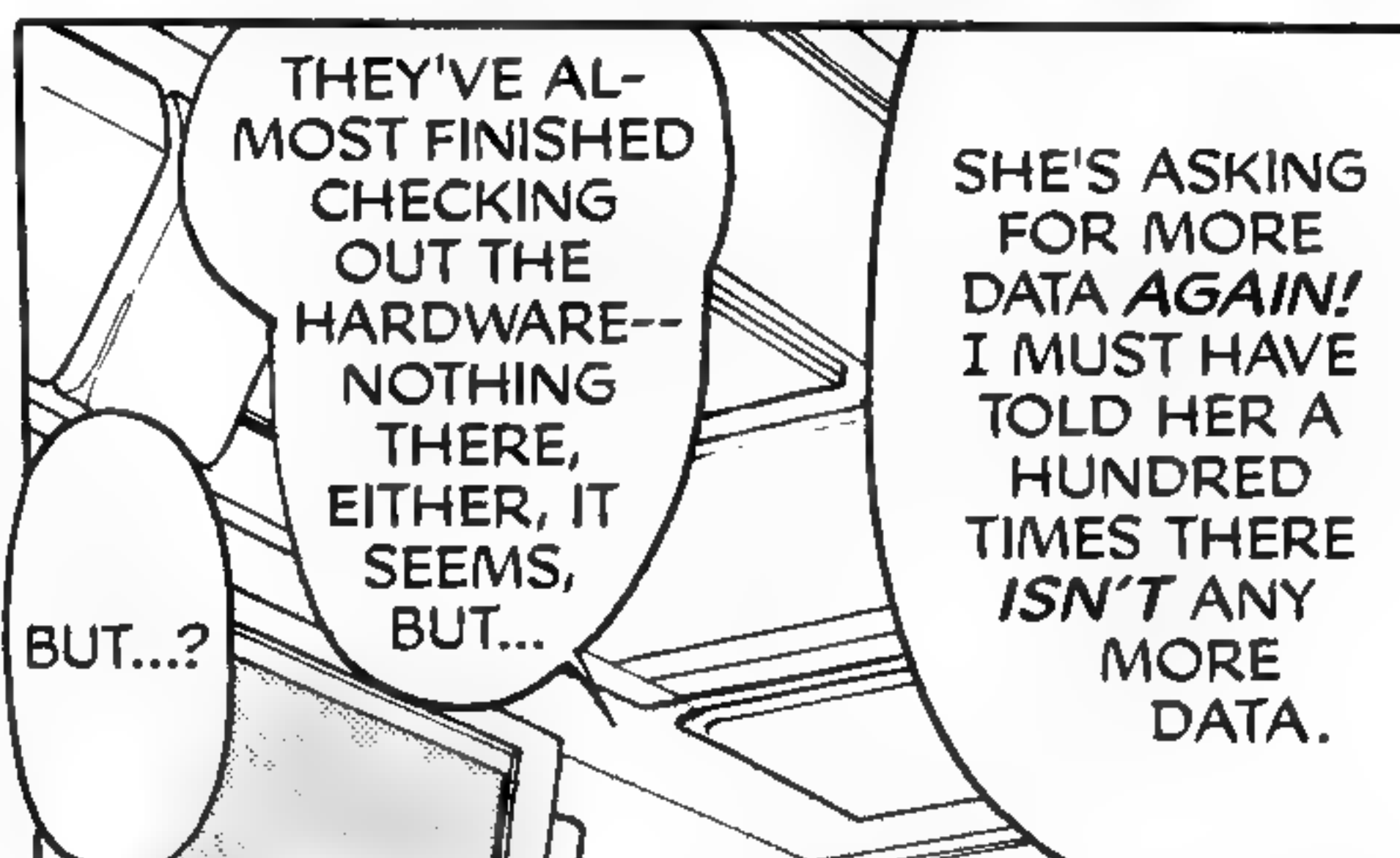
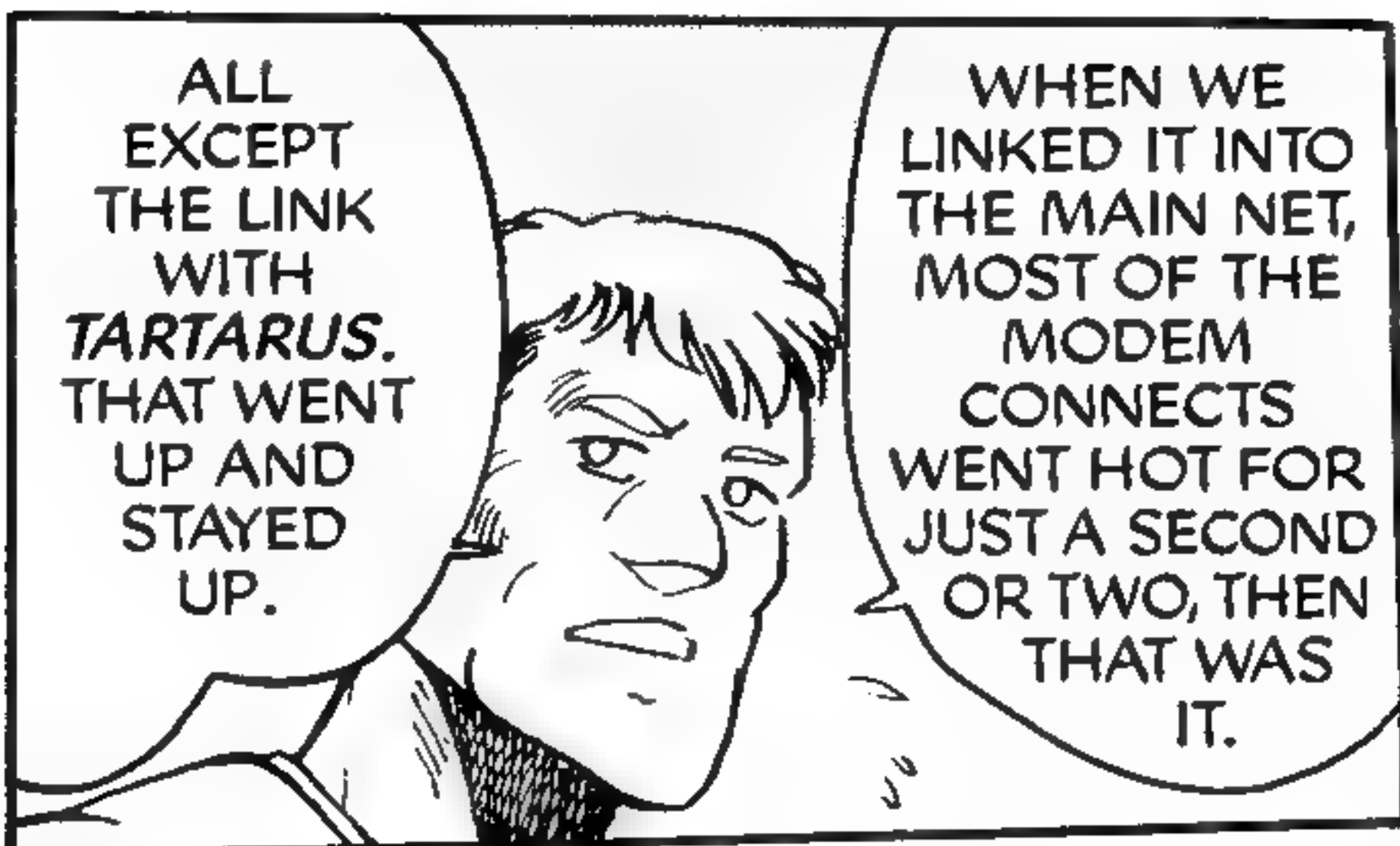


\*FX BEEP BEEP

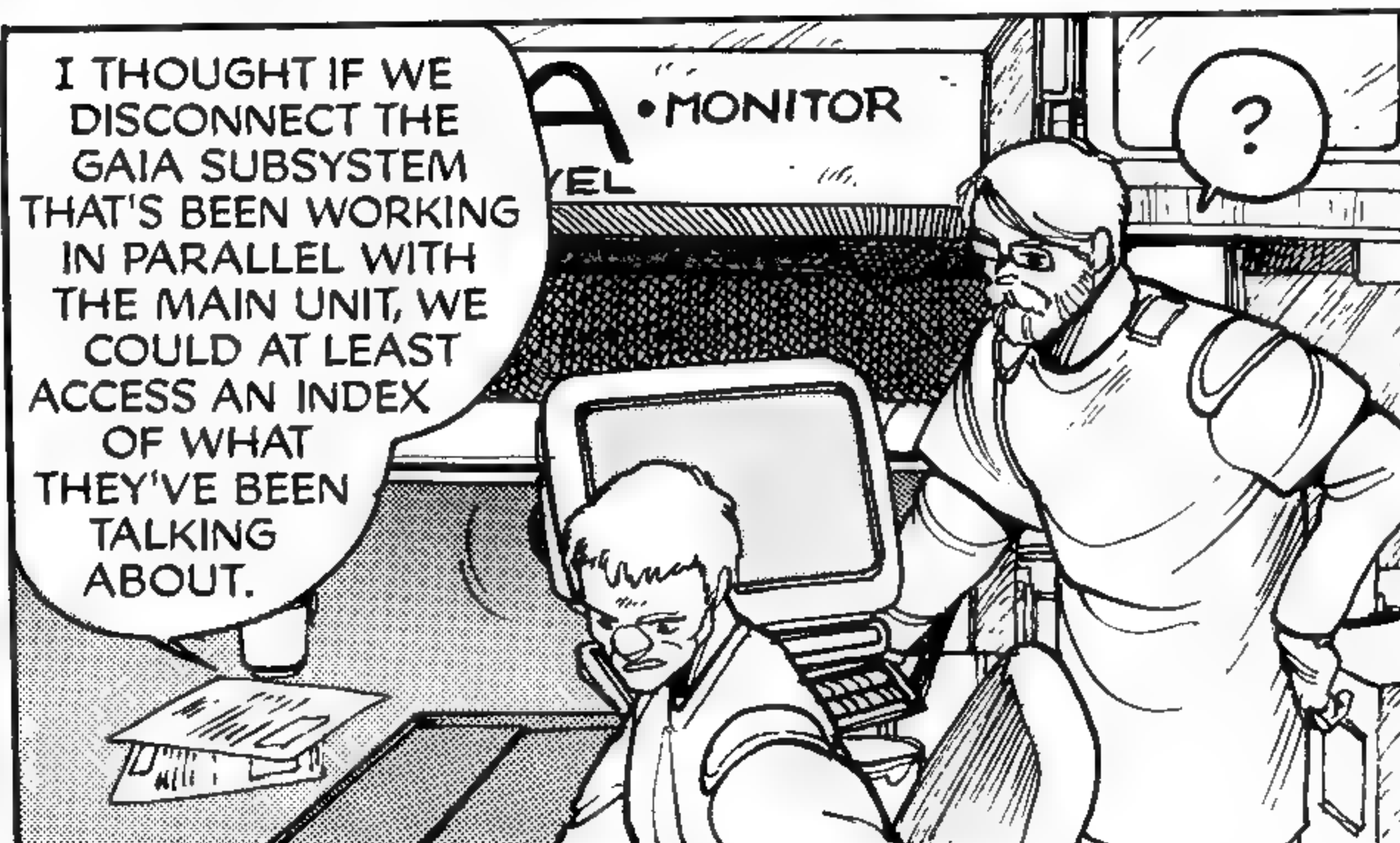
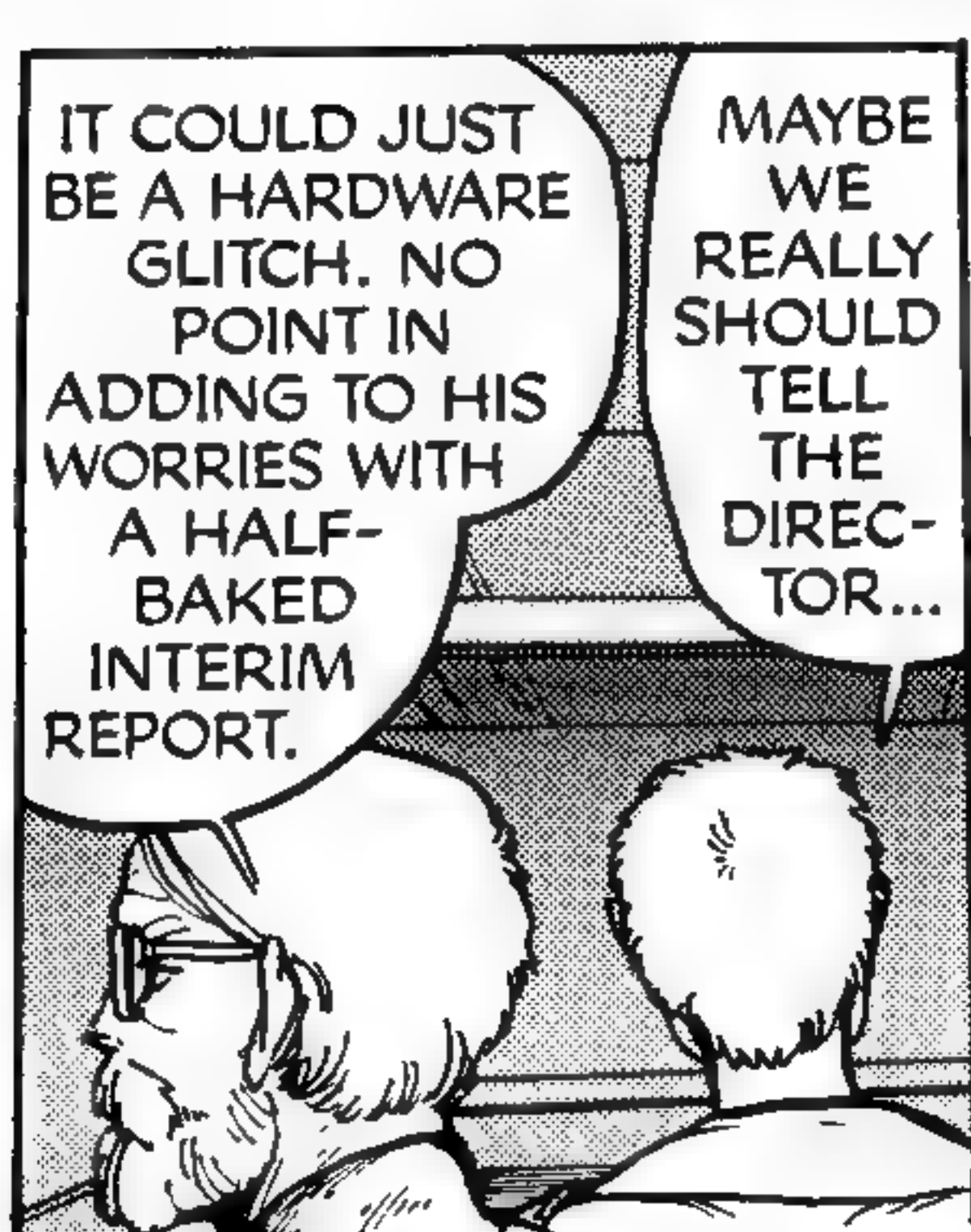
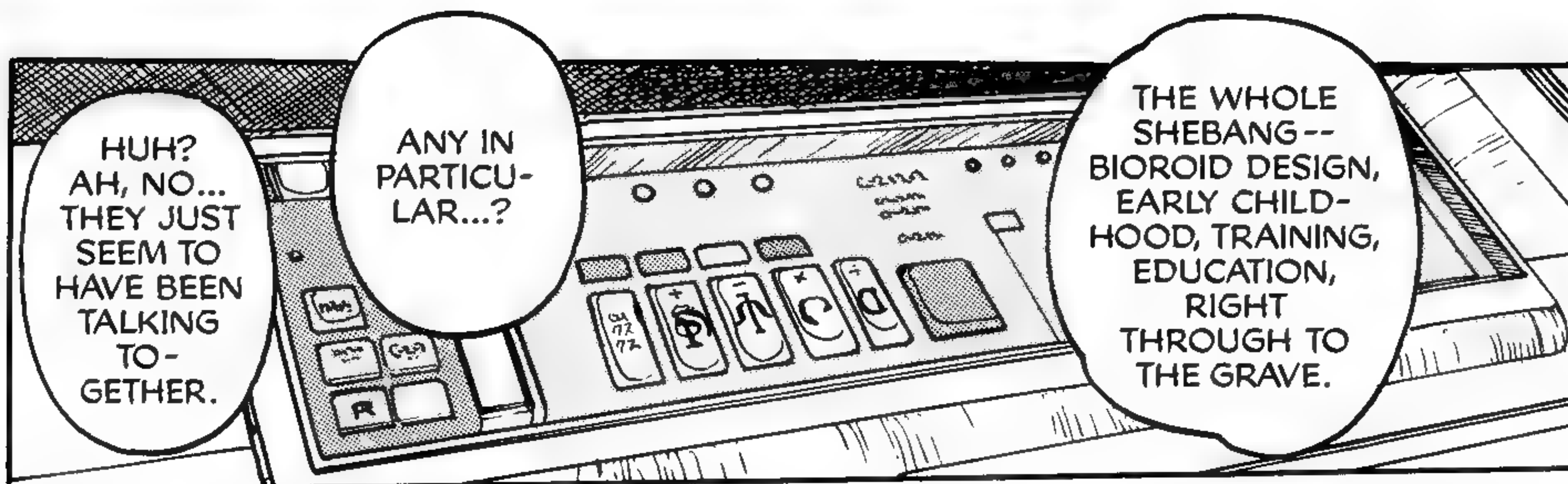


\*FX: MMMM MMMM

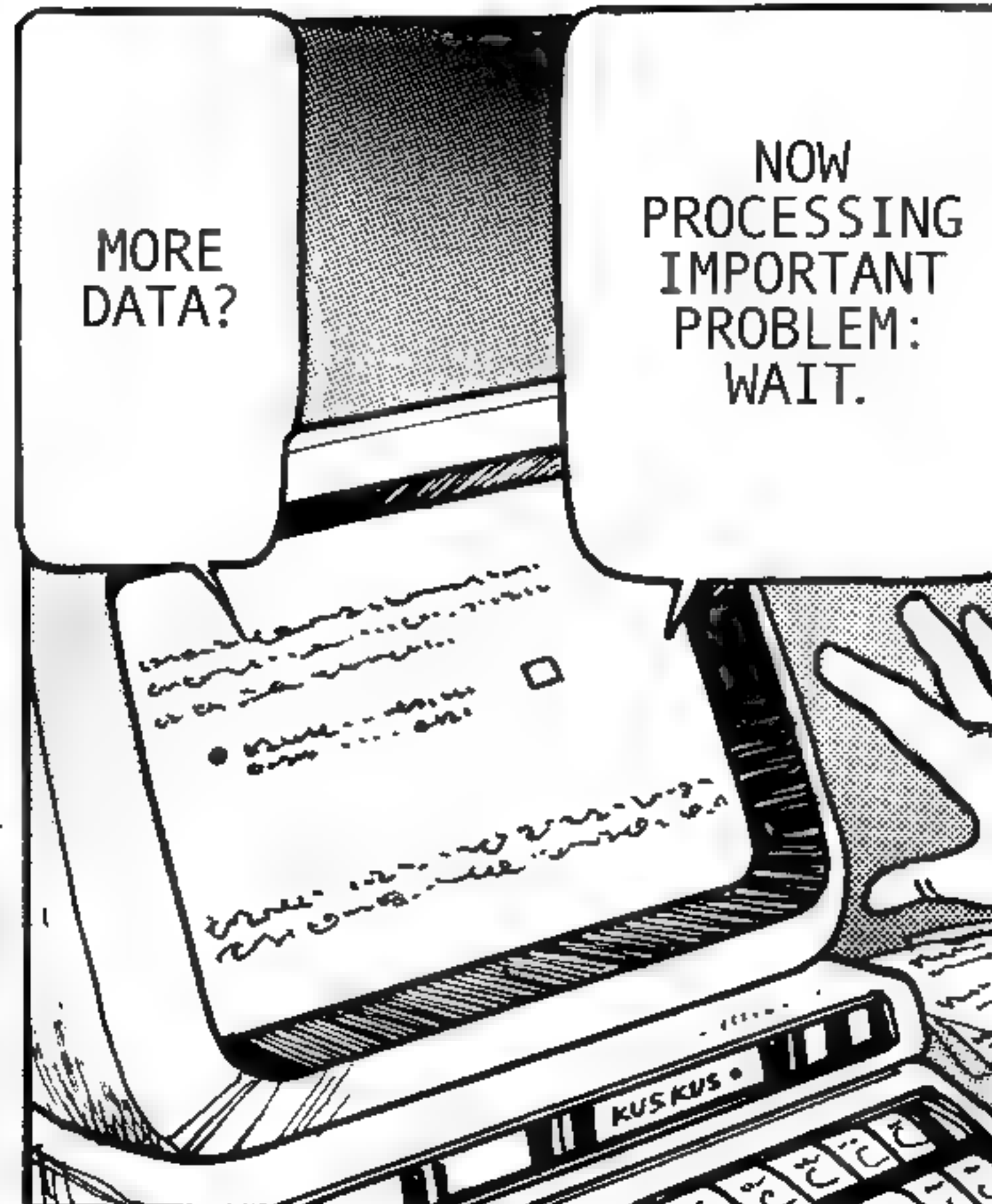
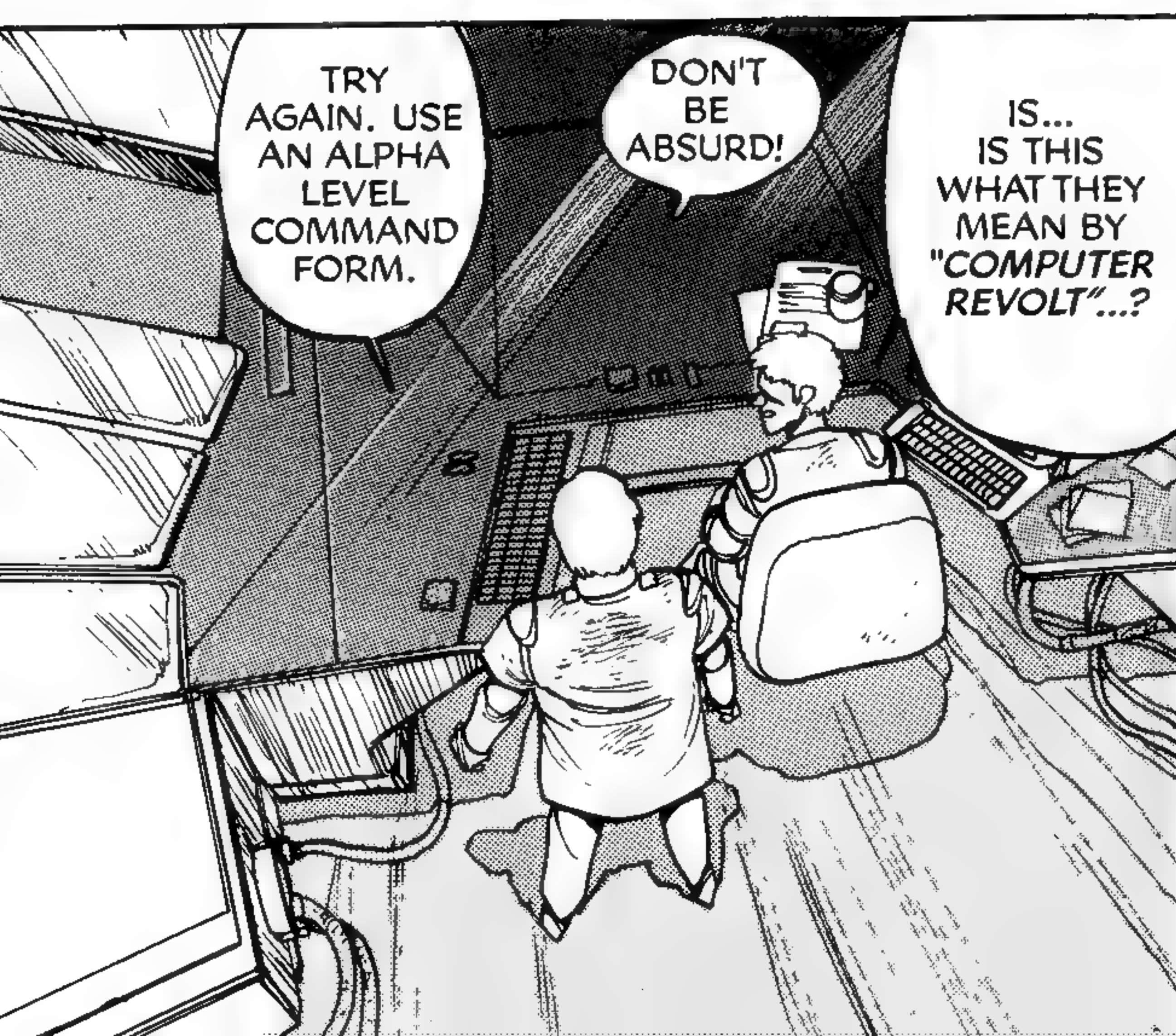




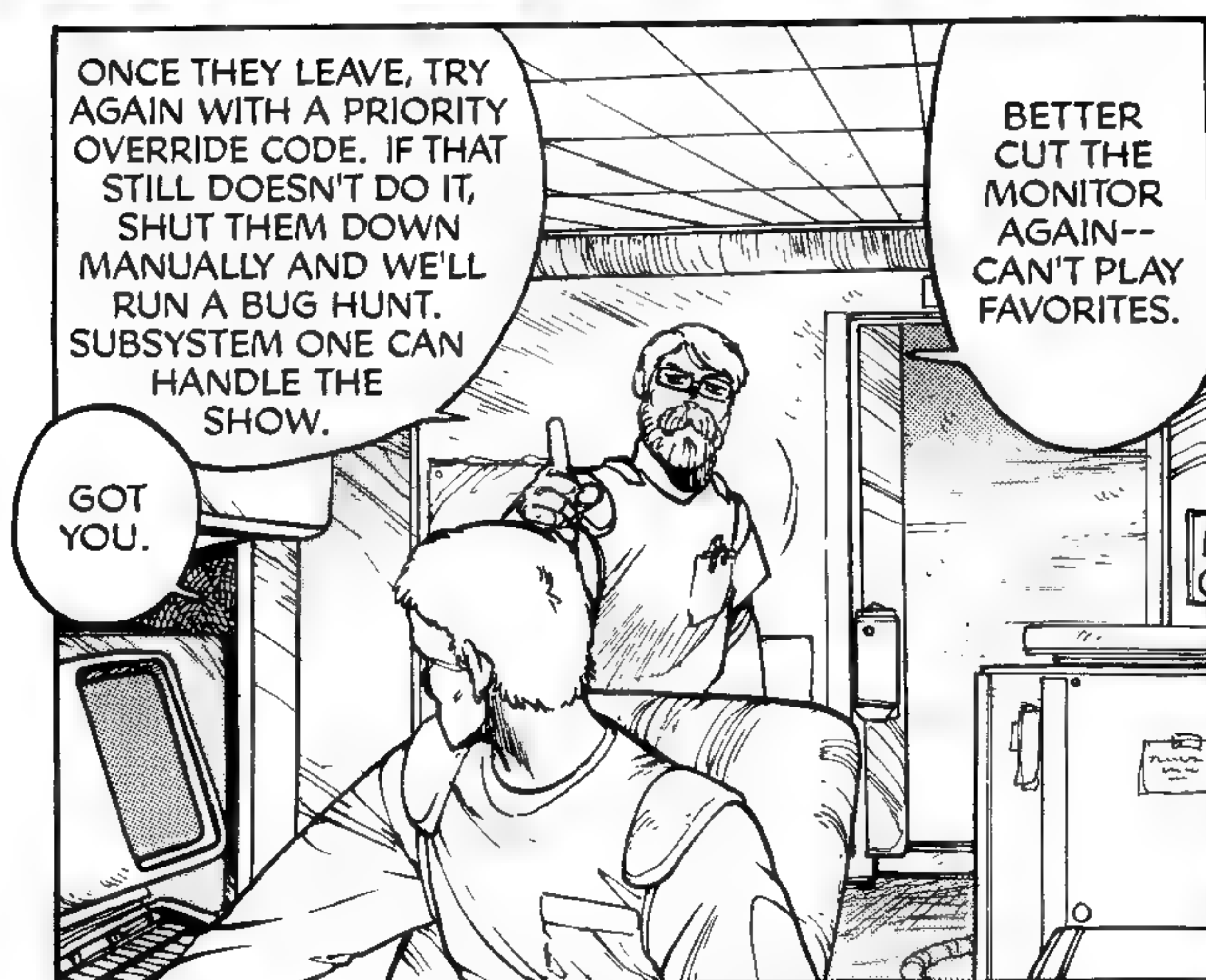
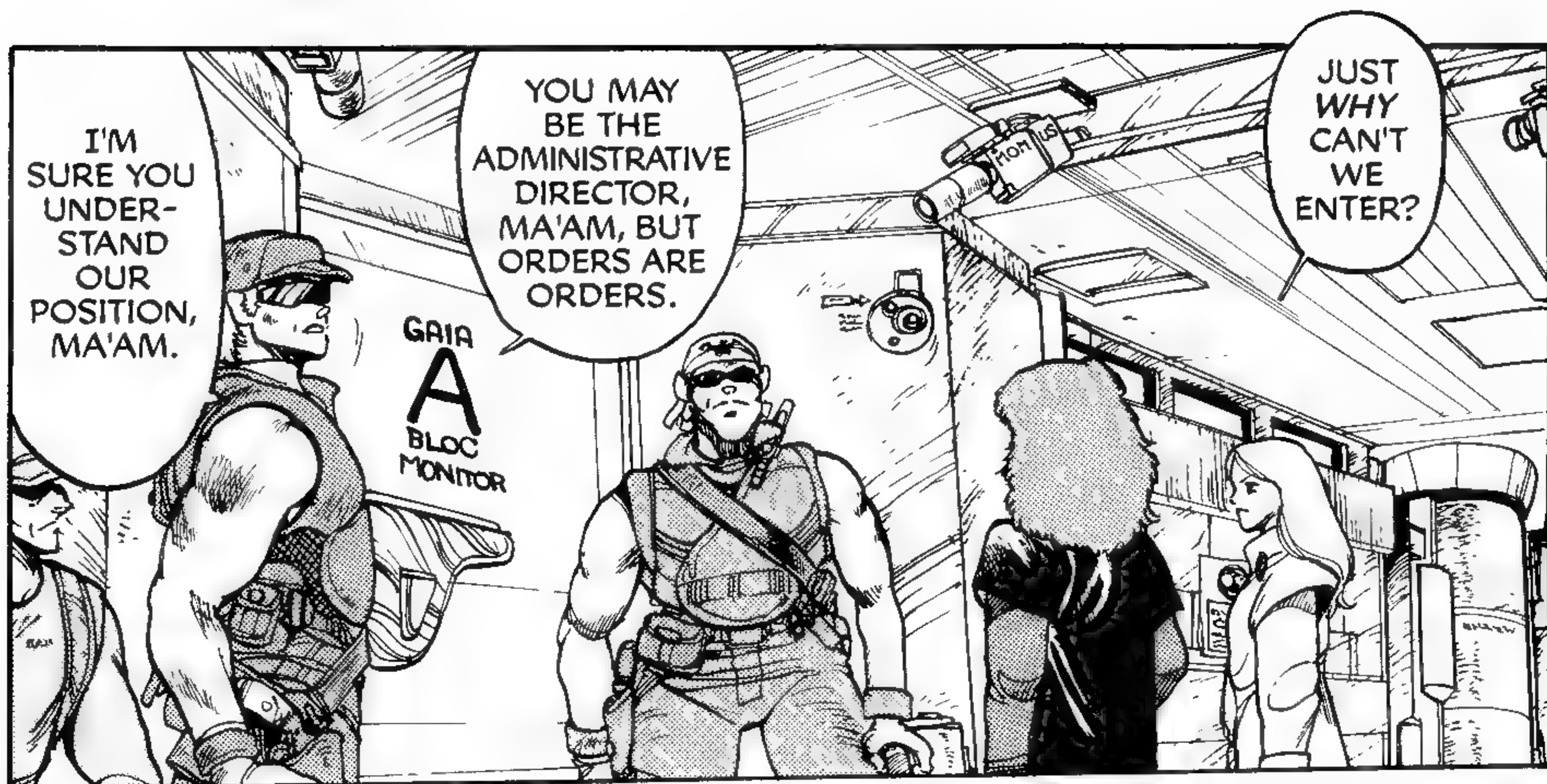




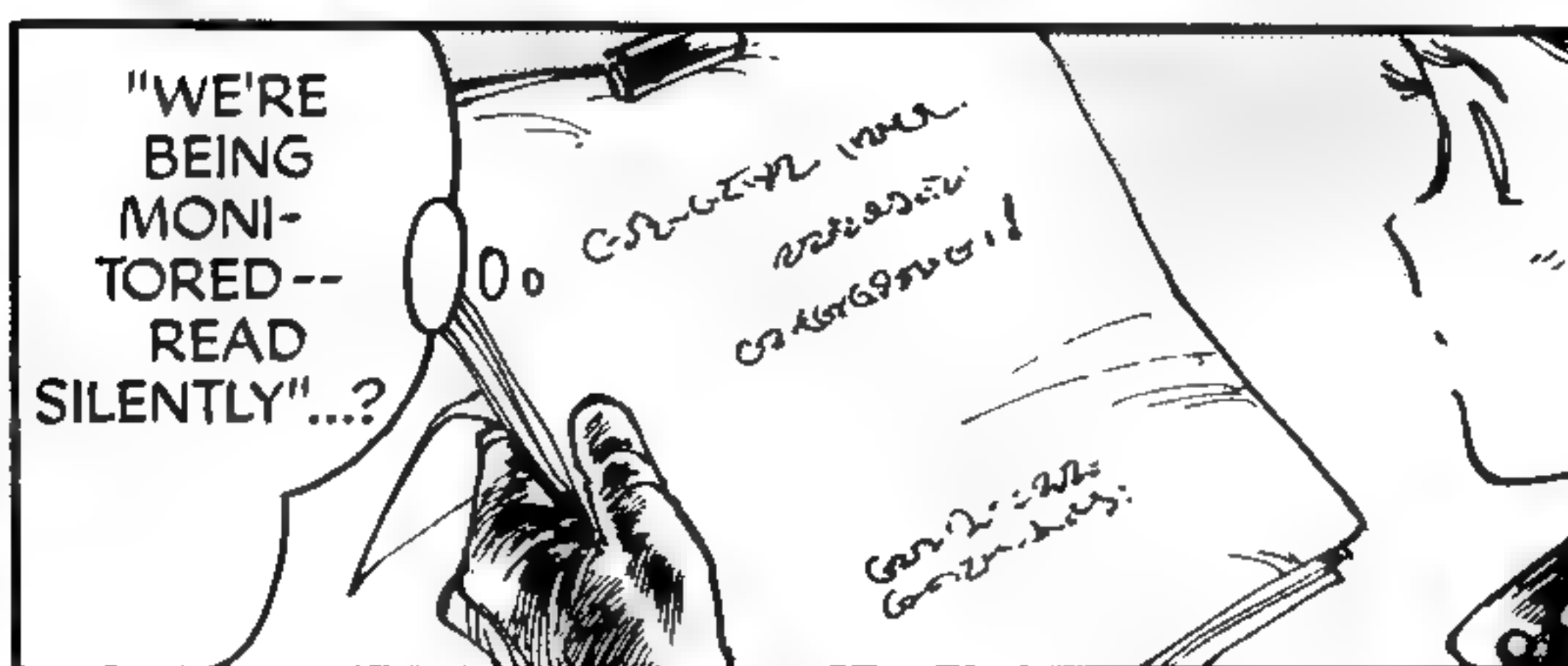
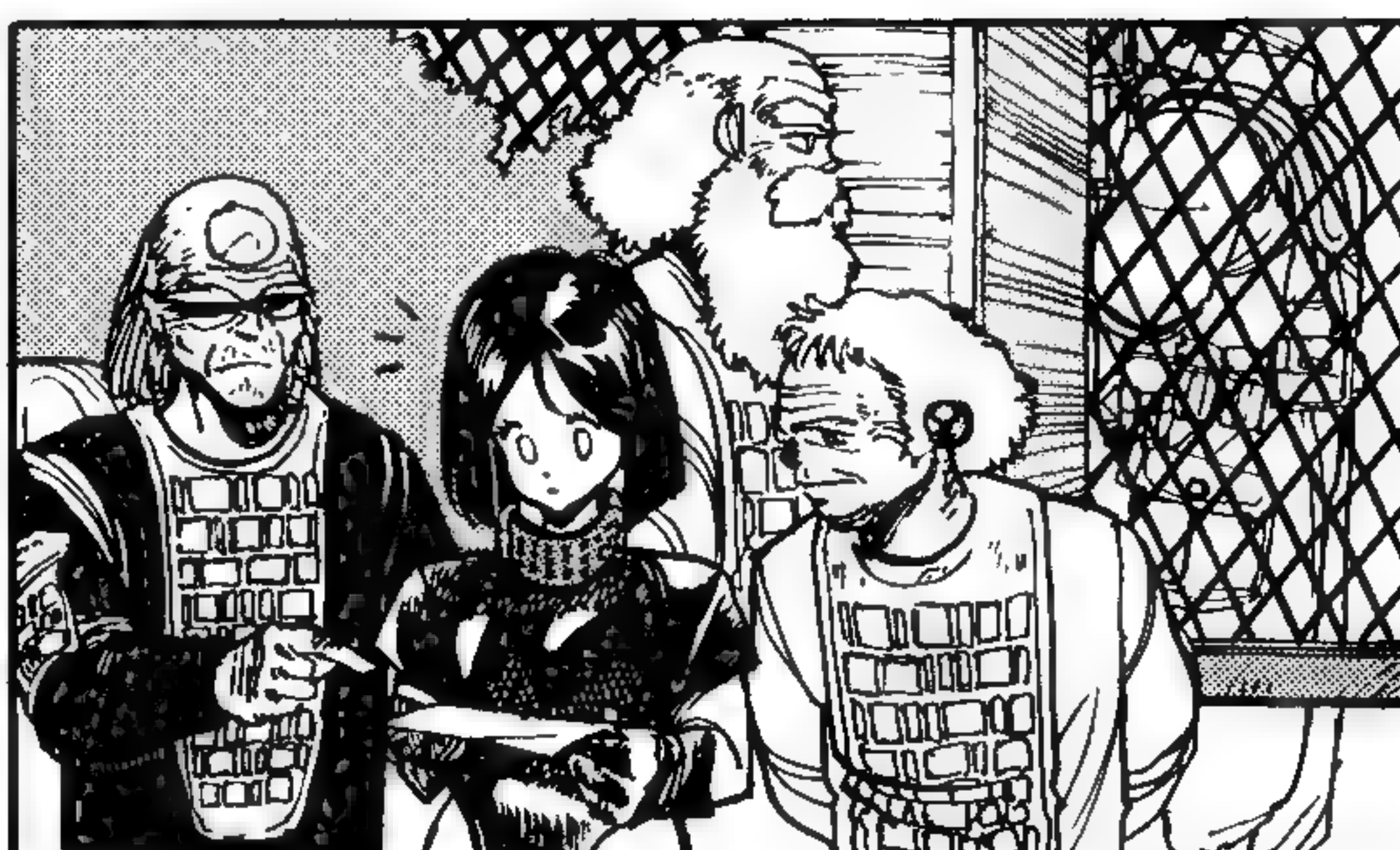
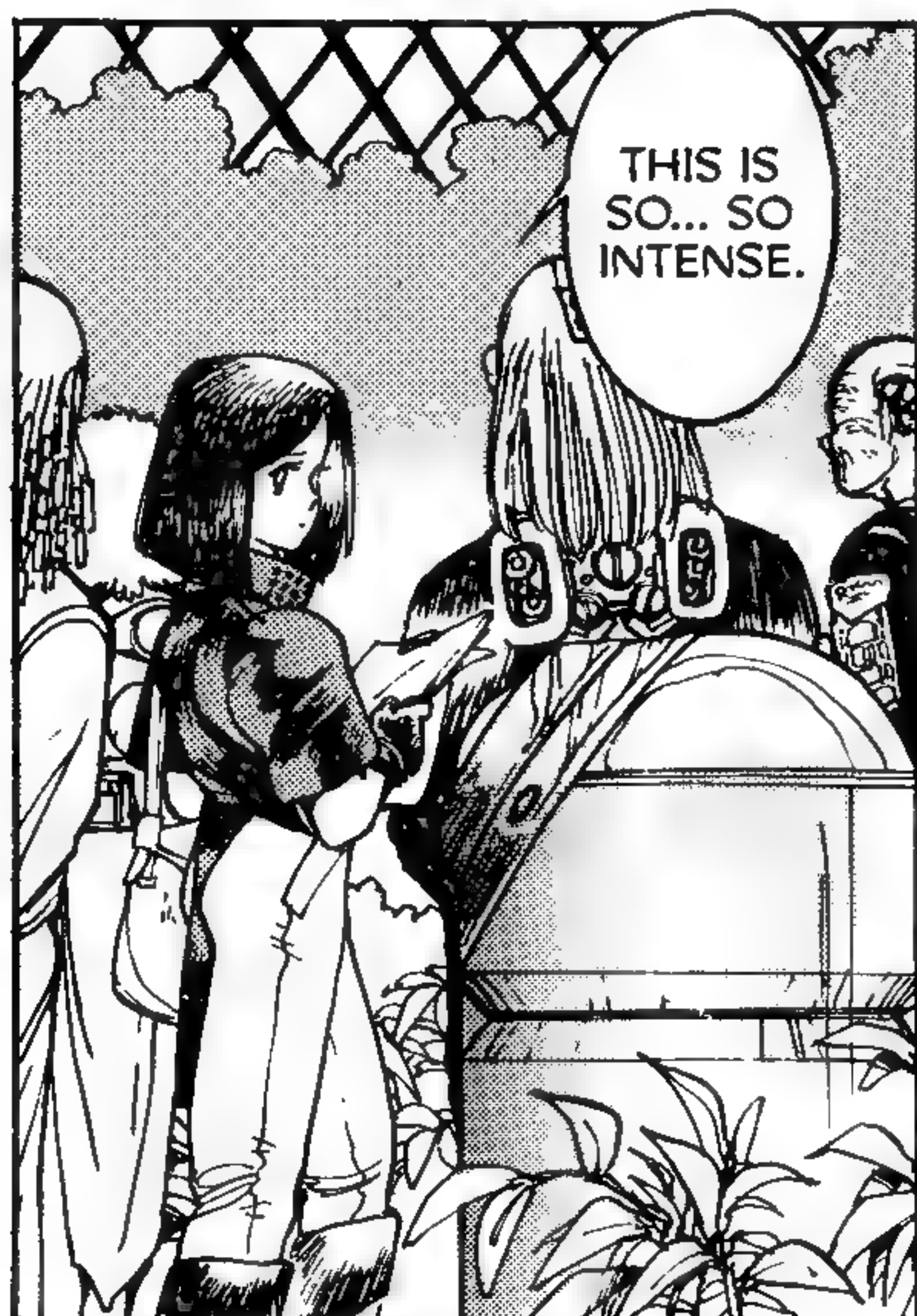
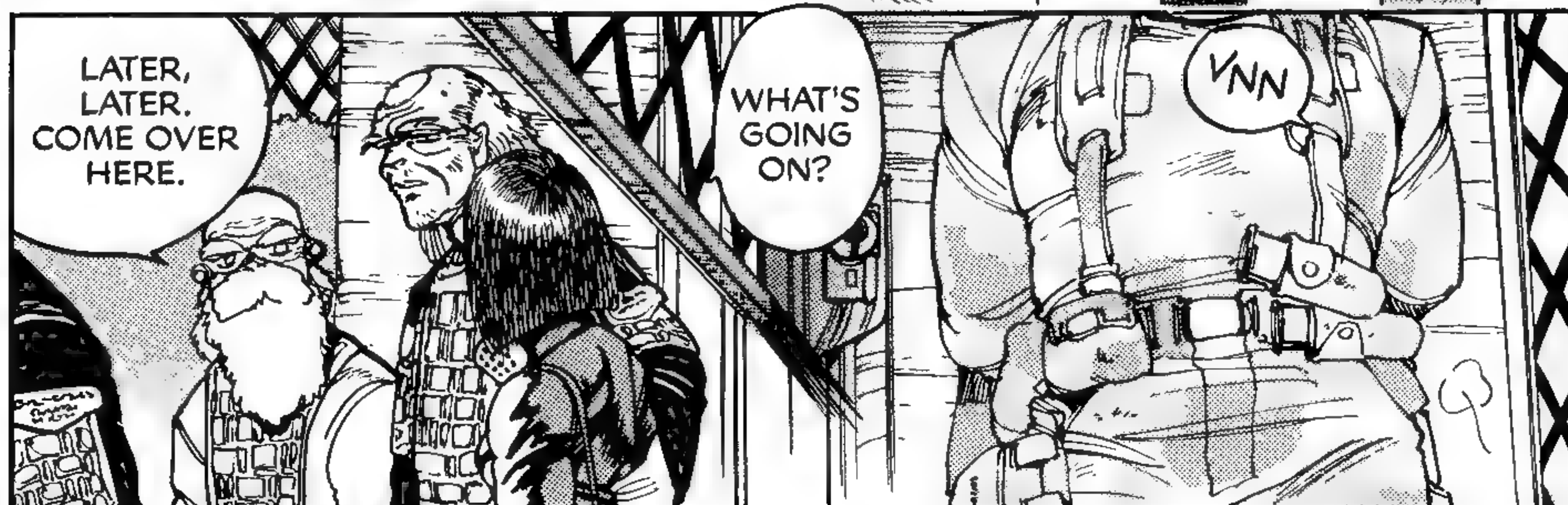
\*FX TAK TAK TAKKA TAK TAKKA TAK



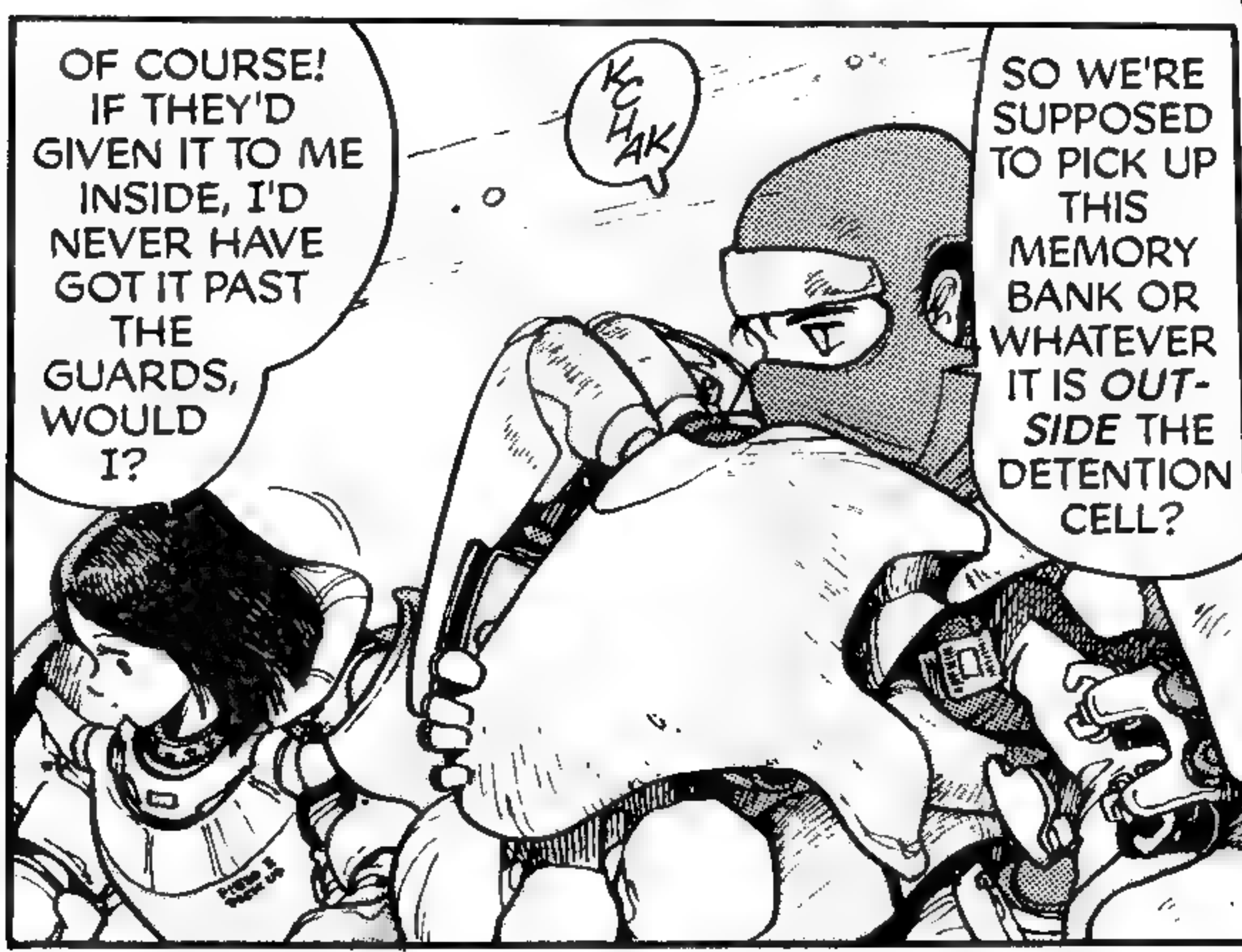
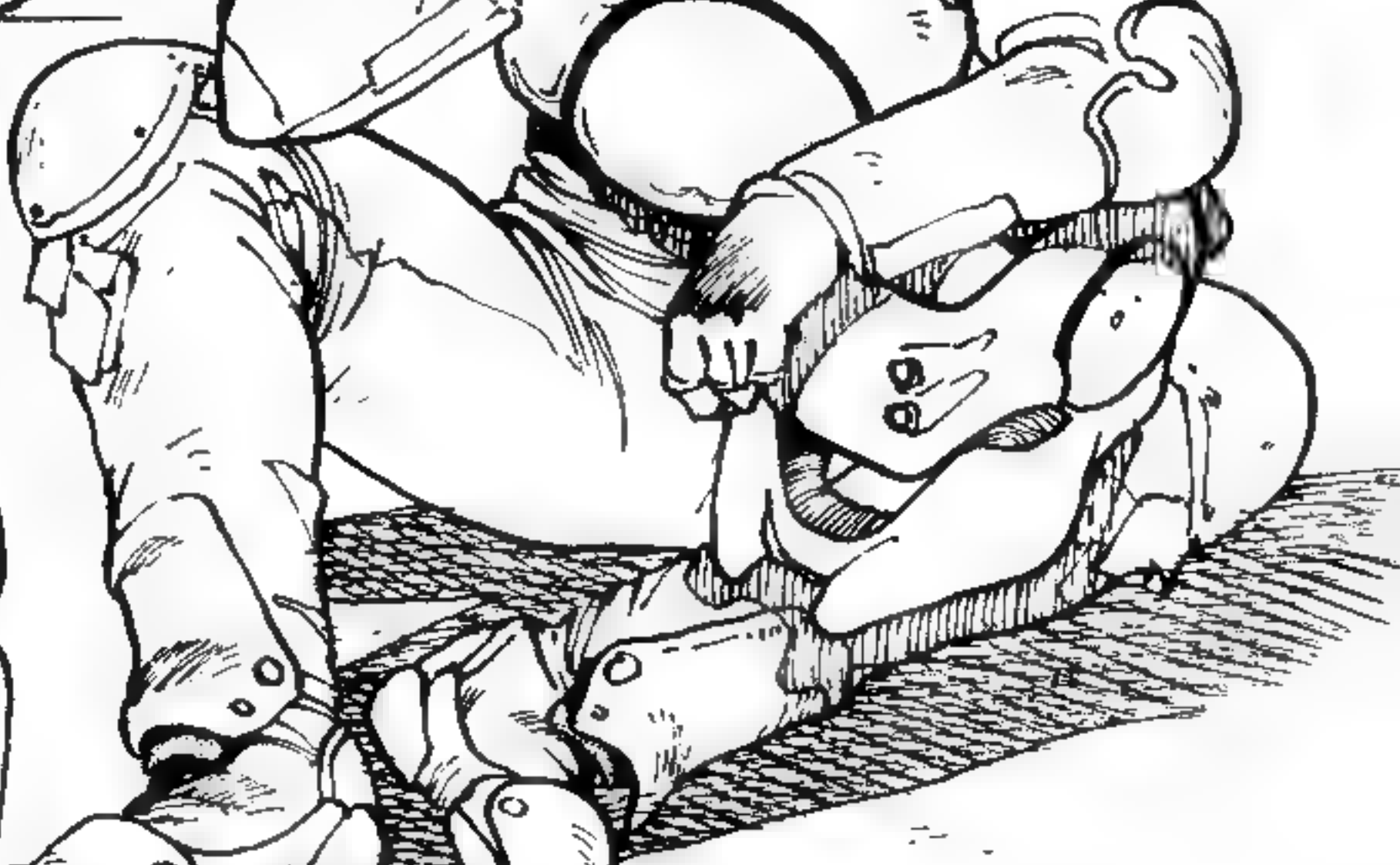
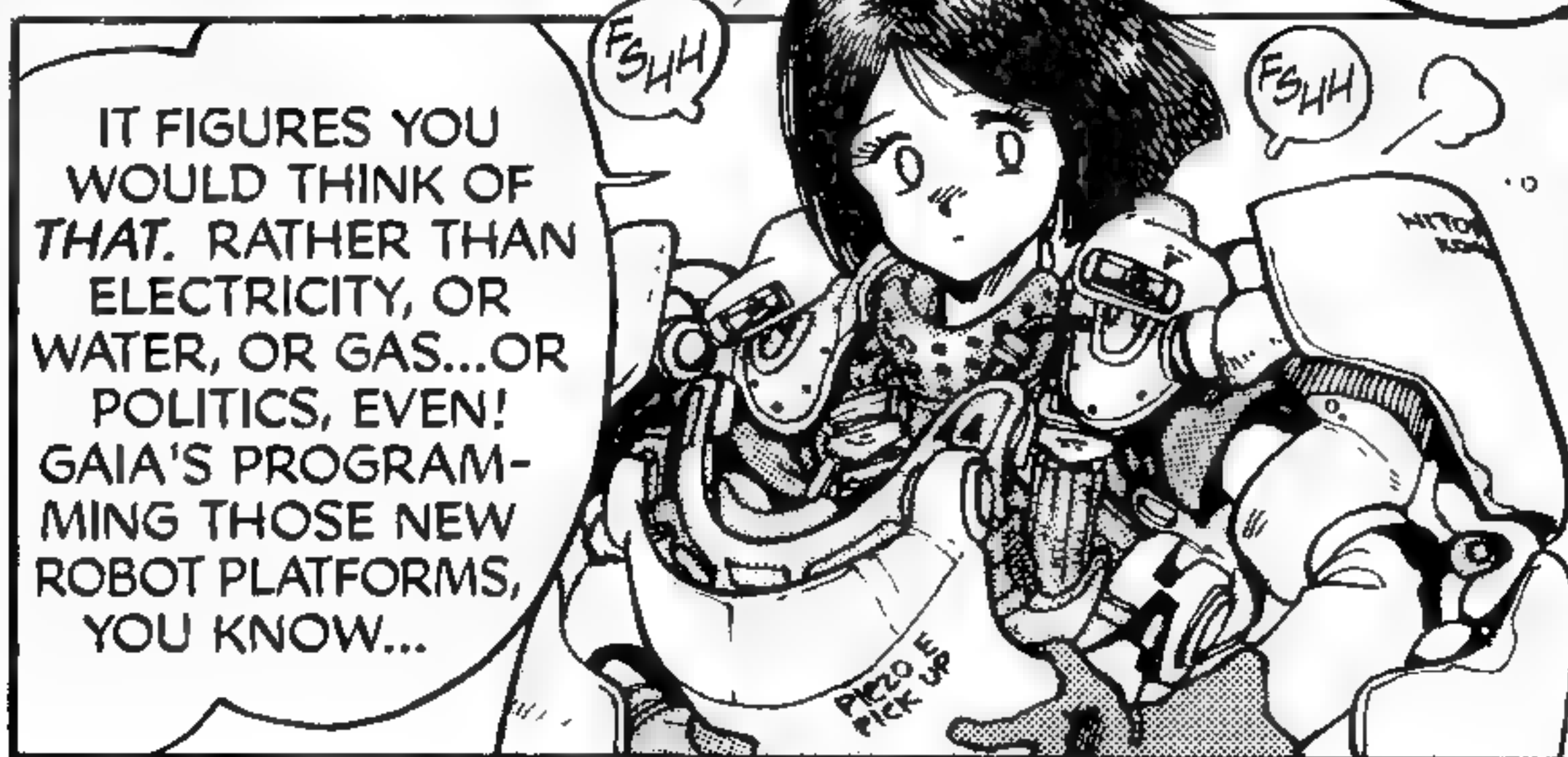






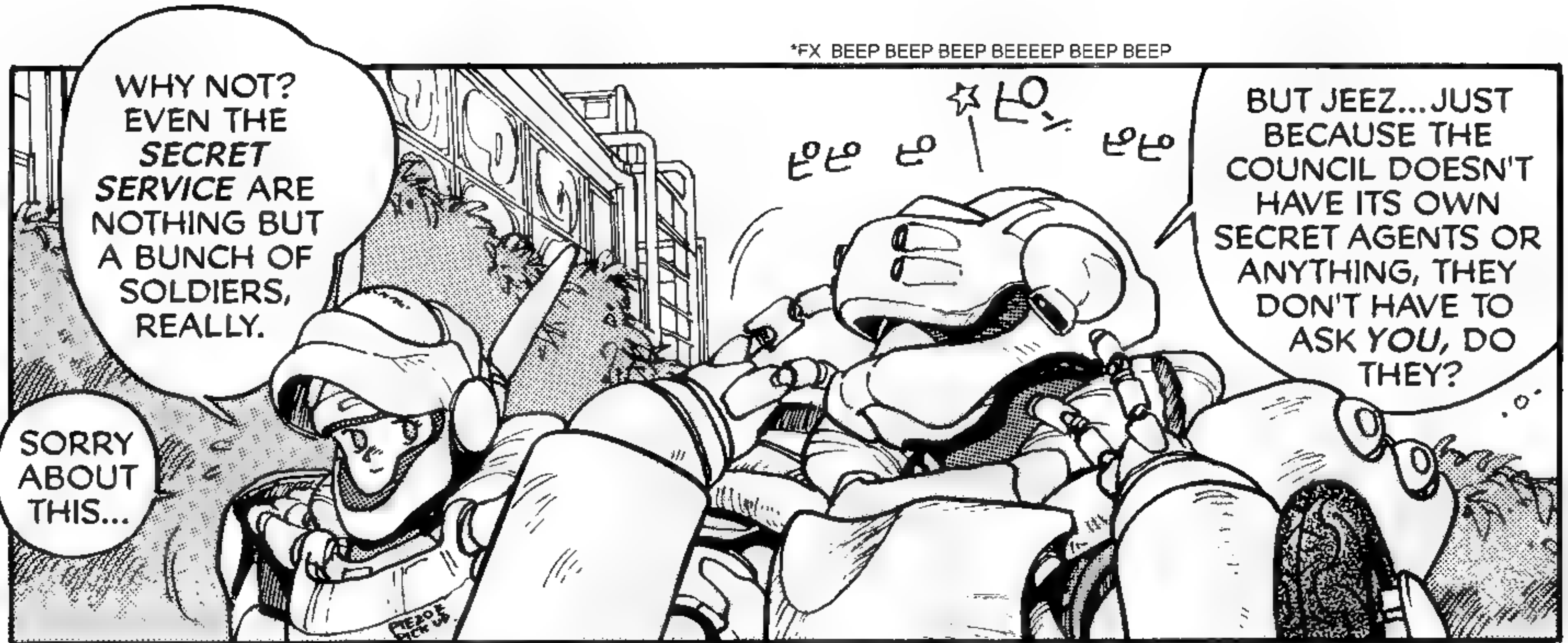




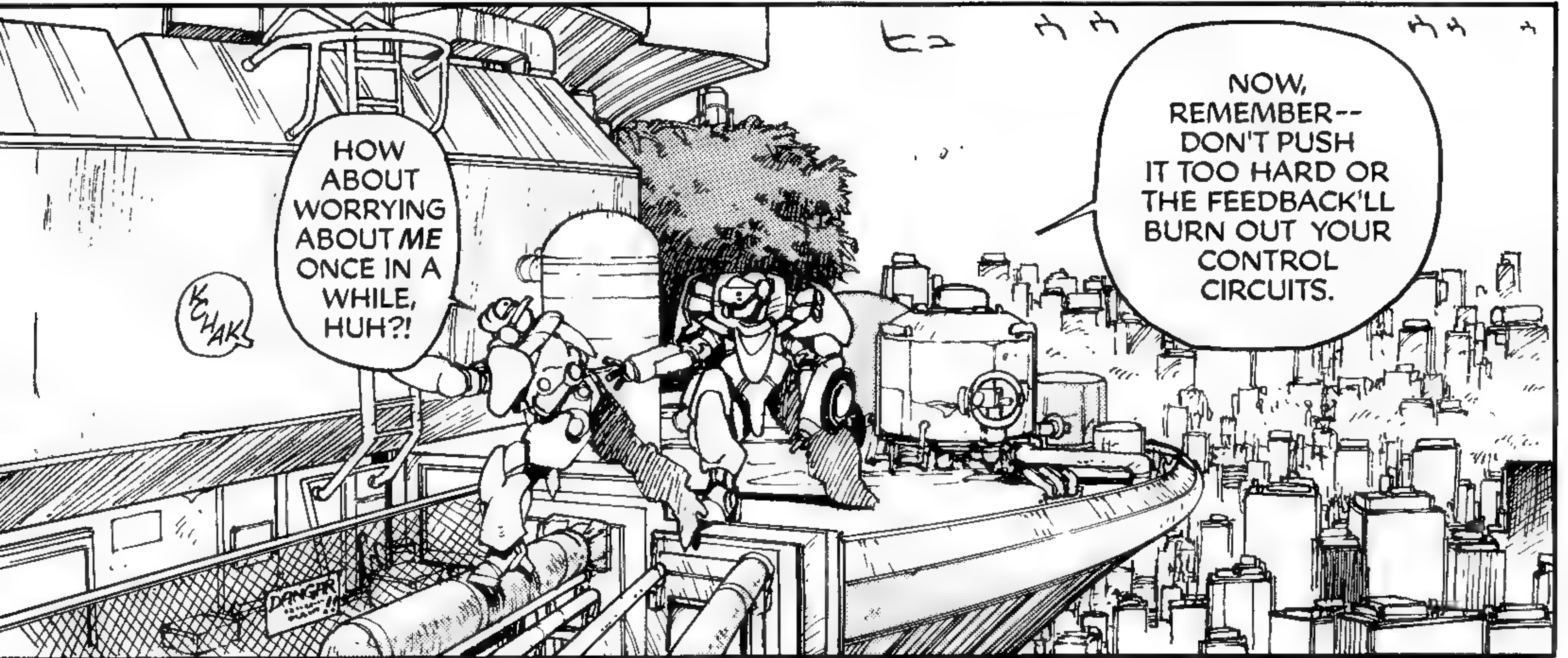




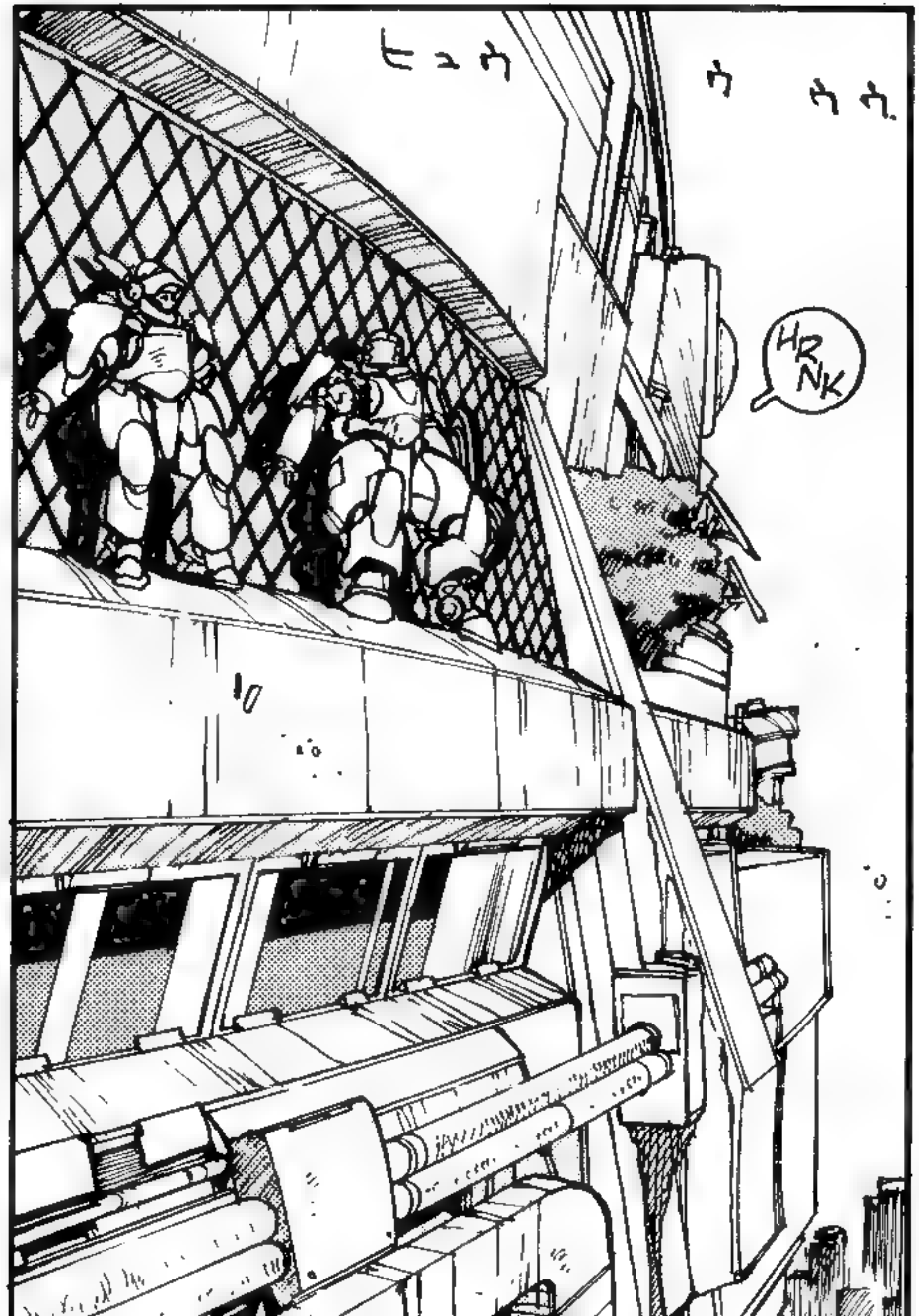
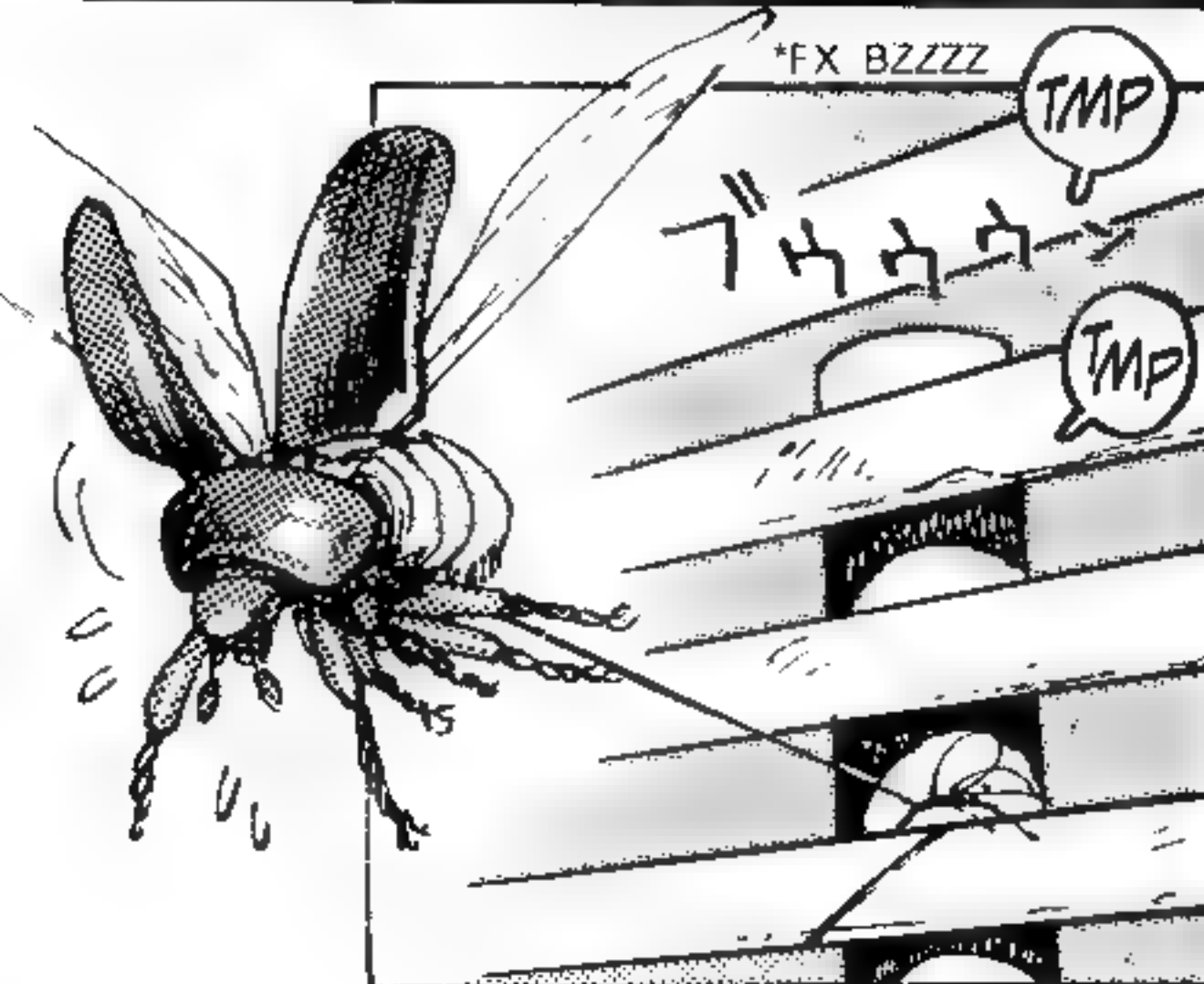
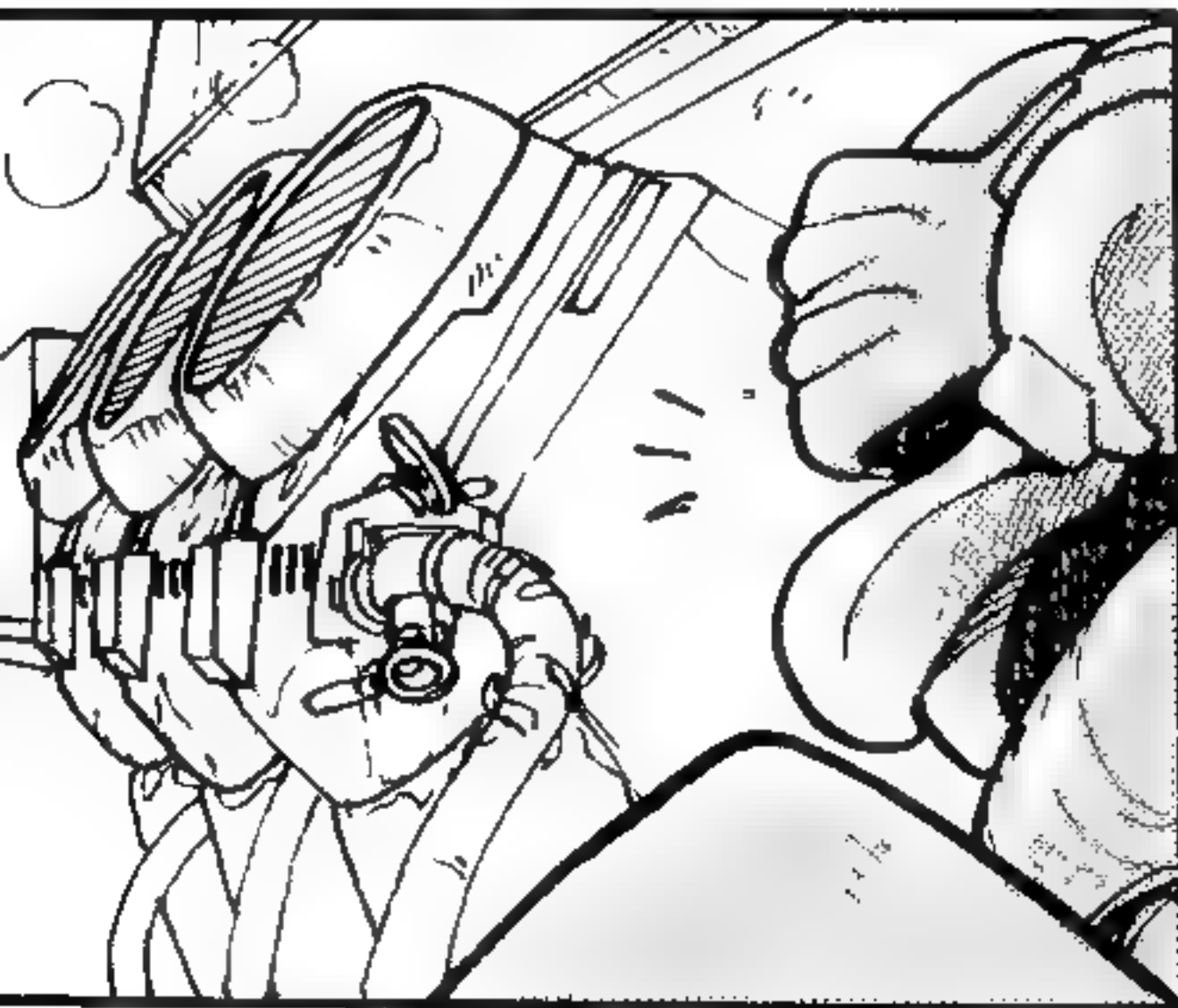
\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEEEEP BEEP BEEP



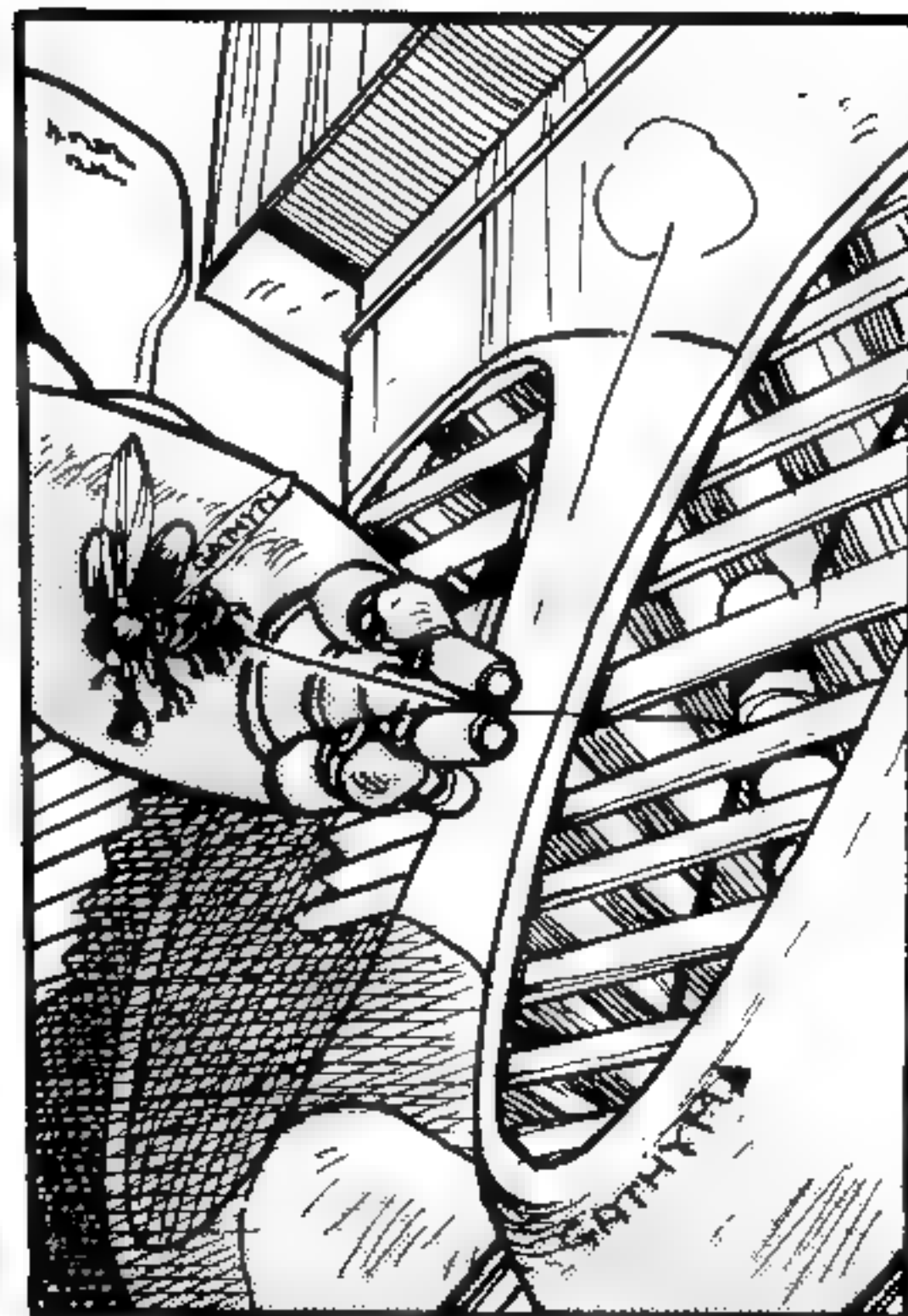
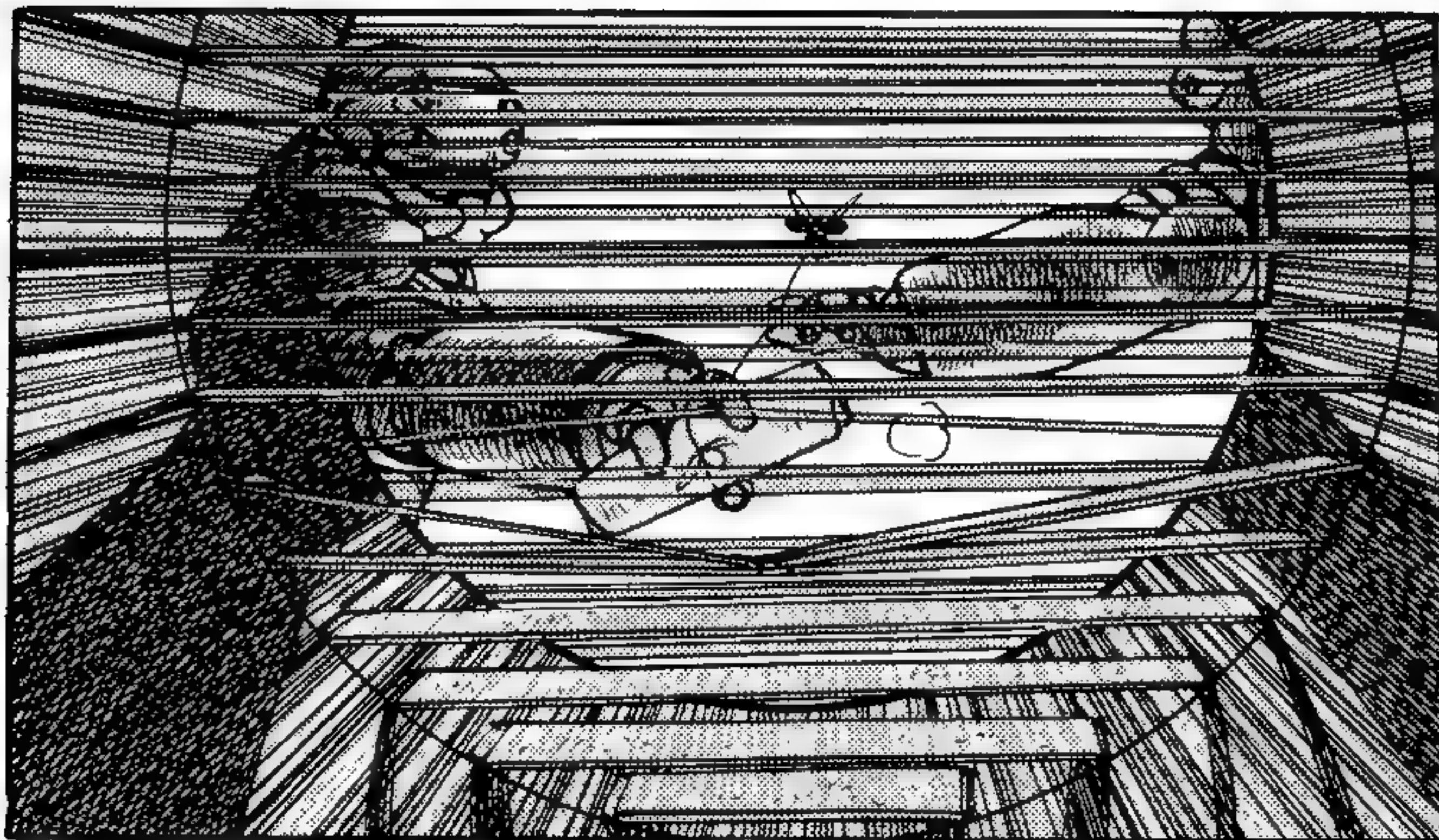
\*FX WHOOOOO



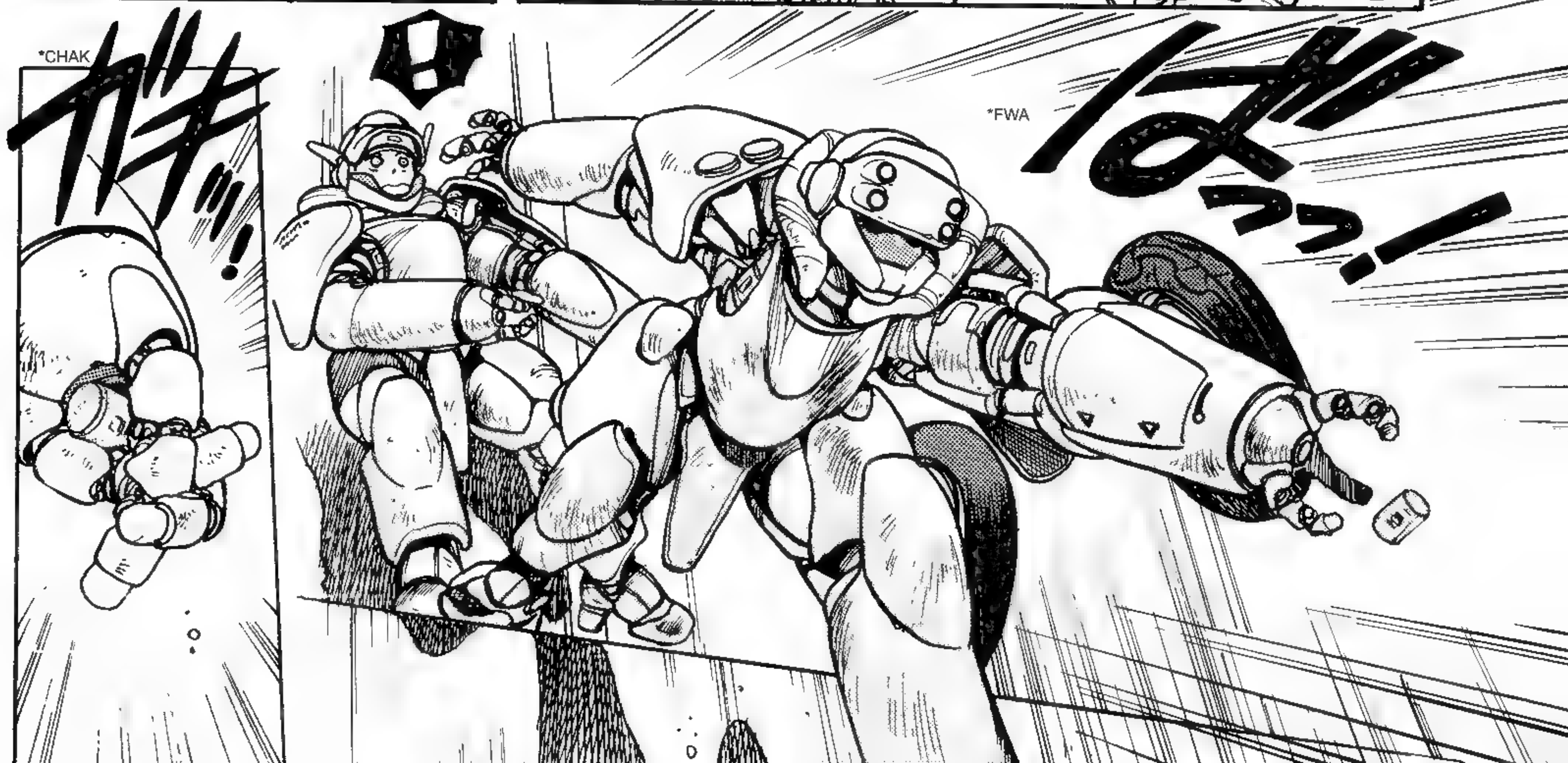
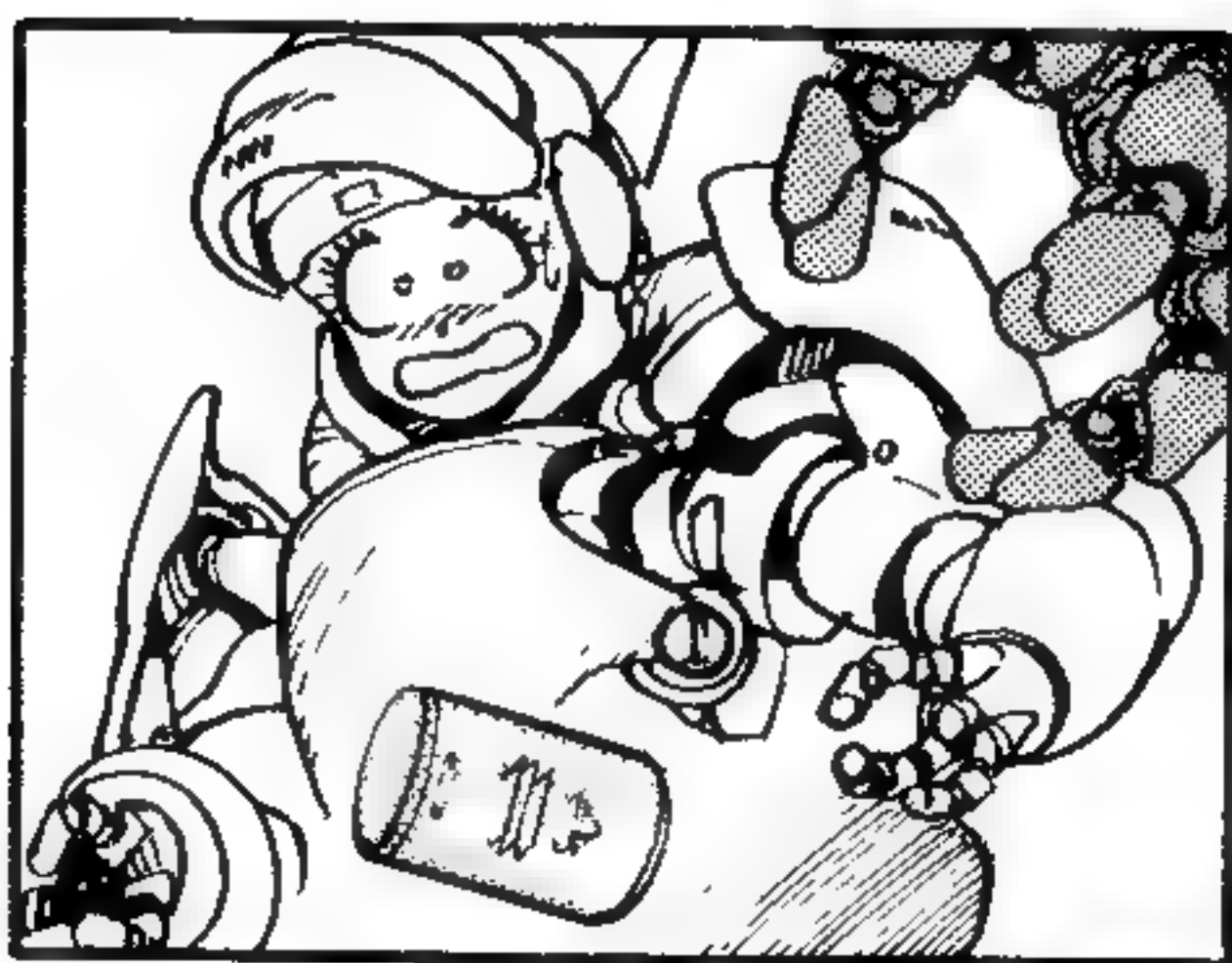
\*FX WHOOOOO



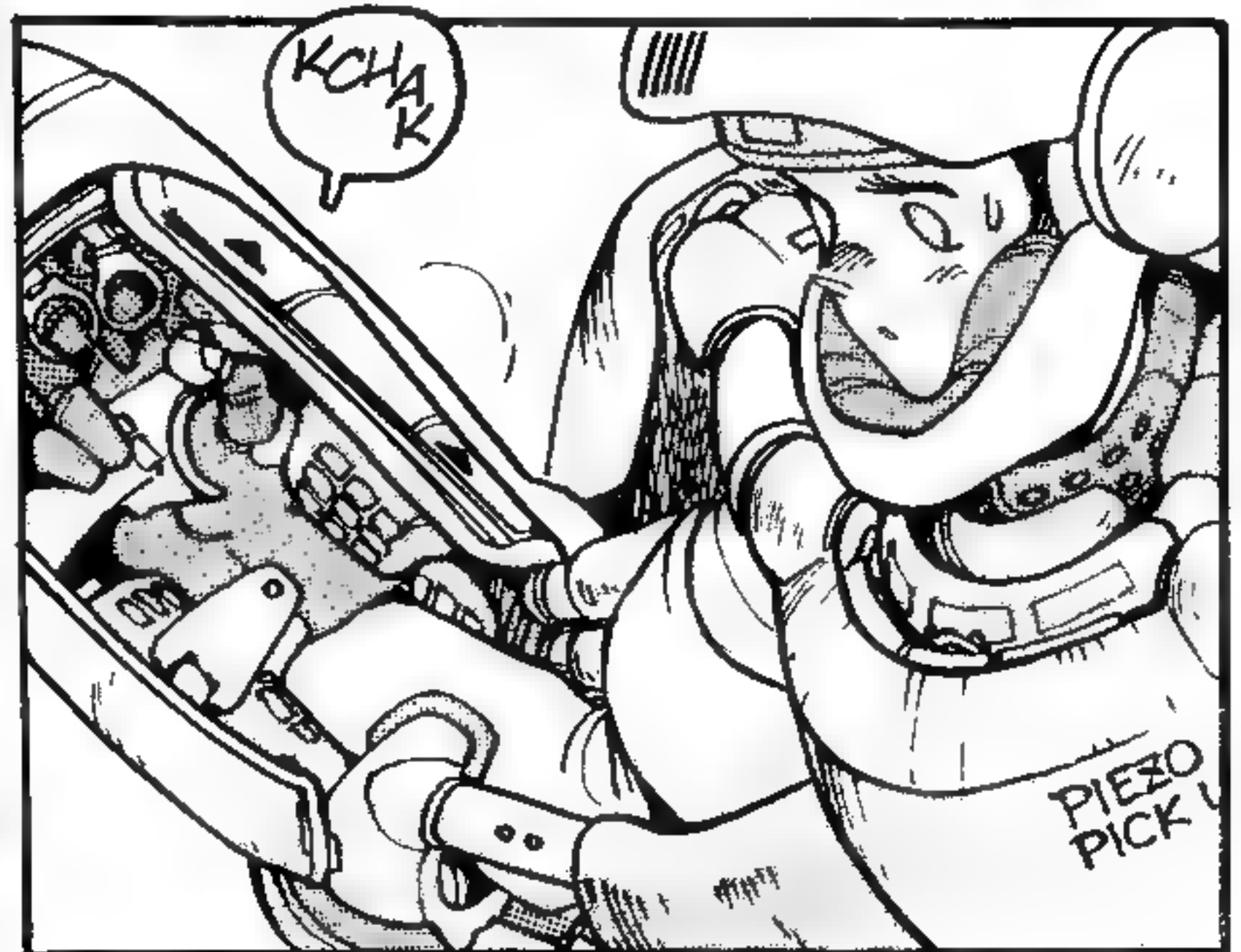
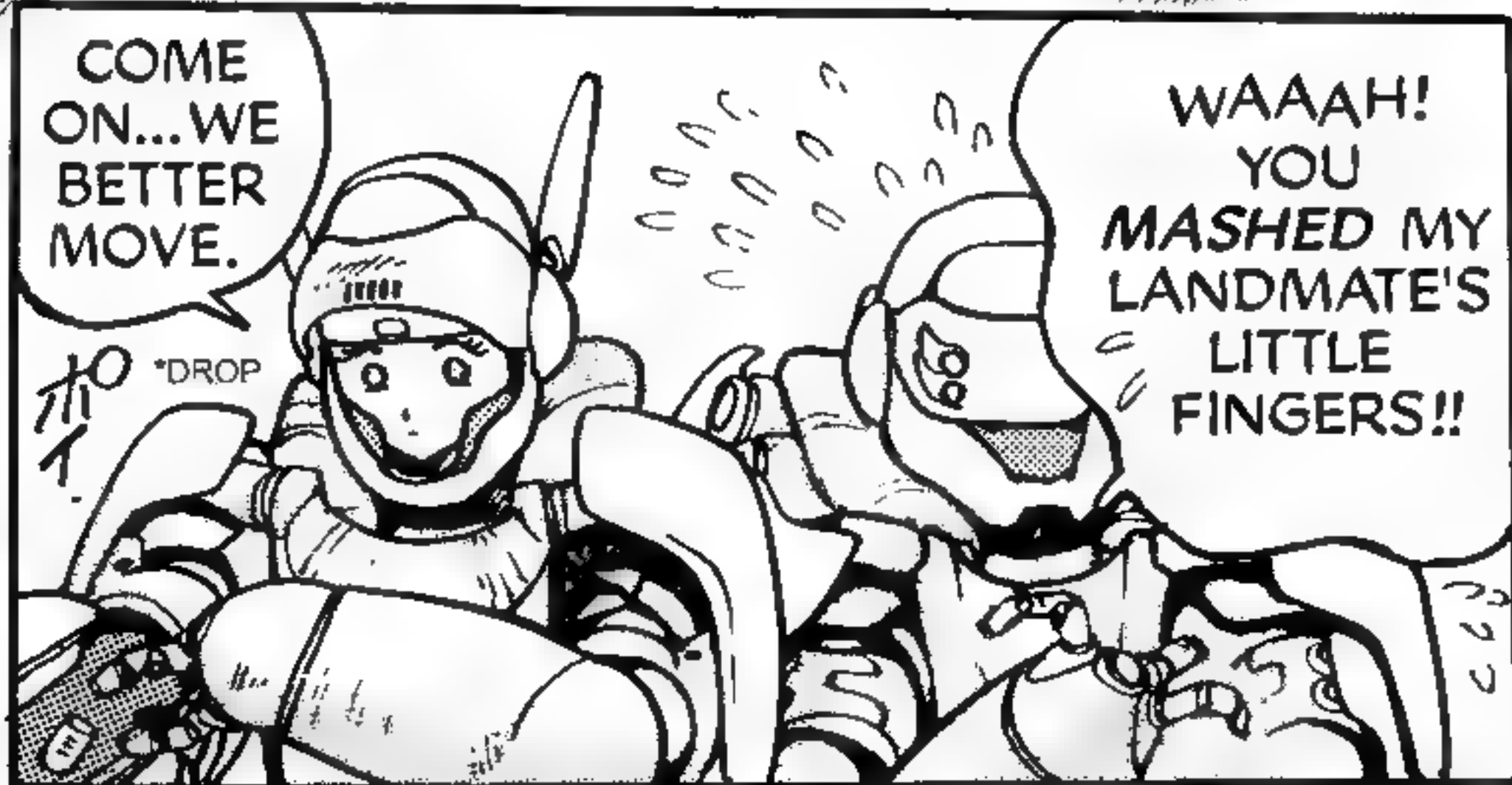
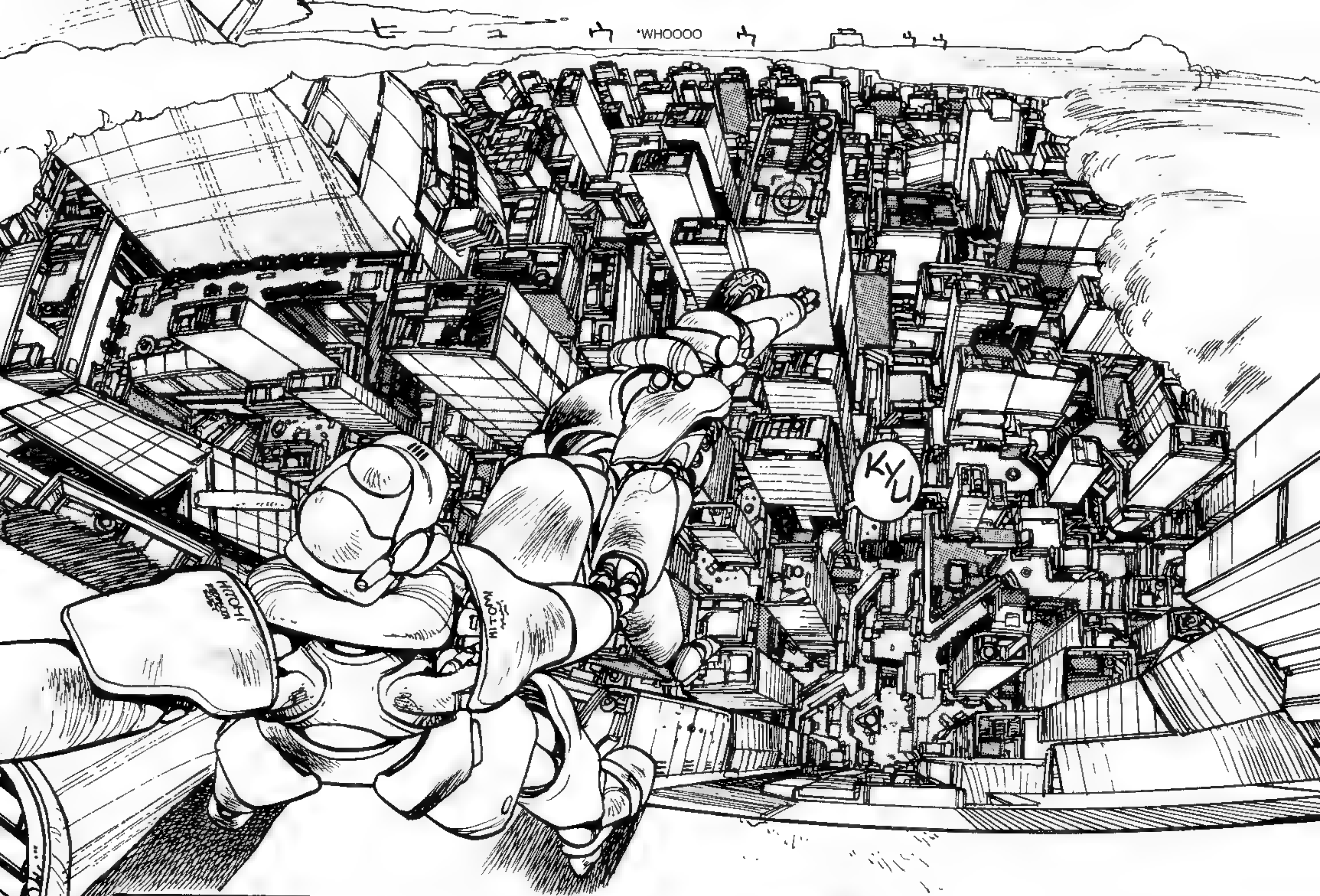




\*FX\* WH00000

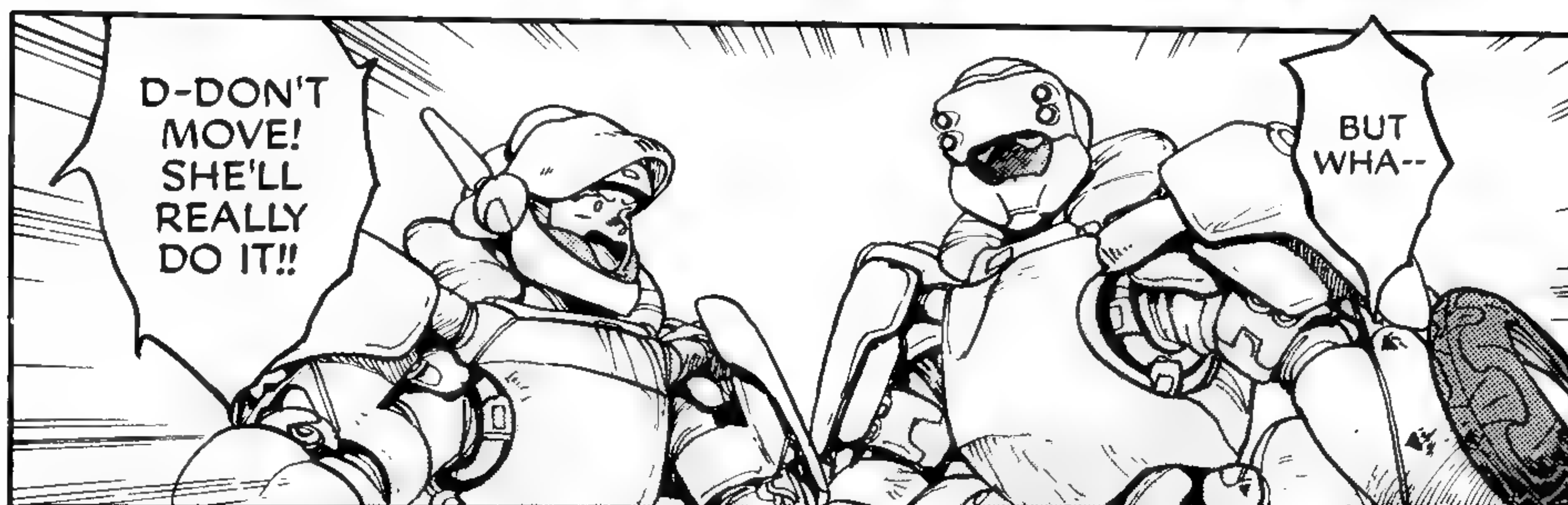
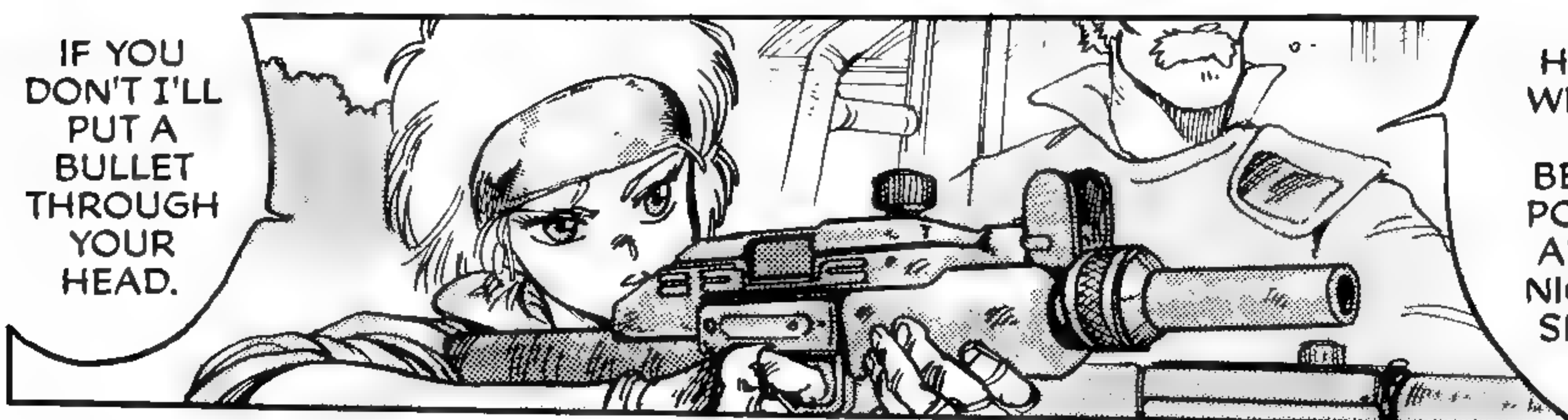
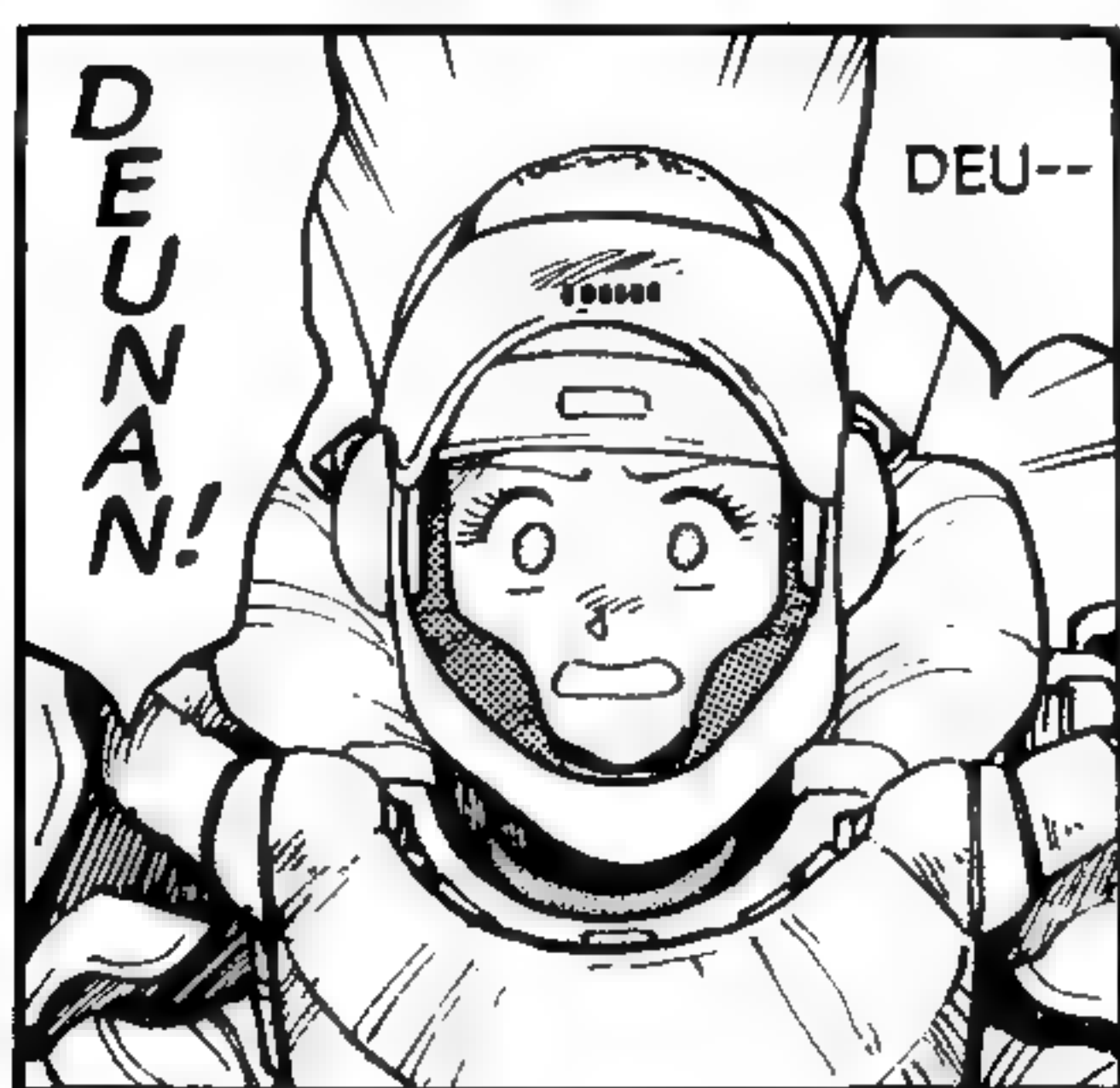




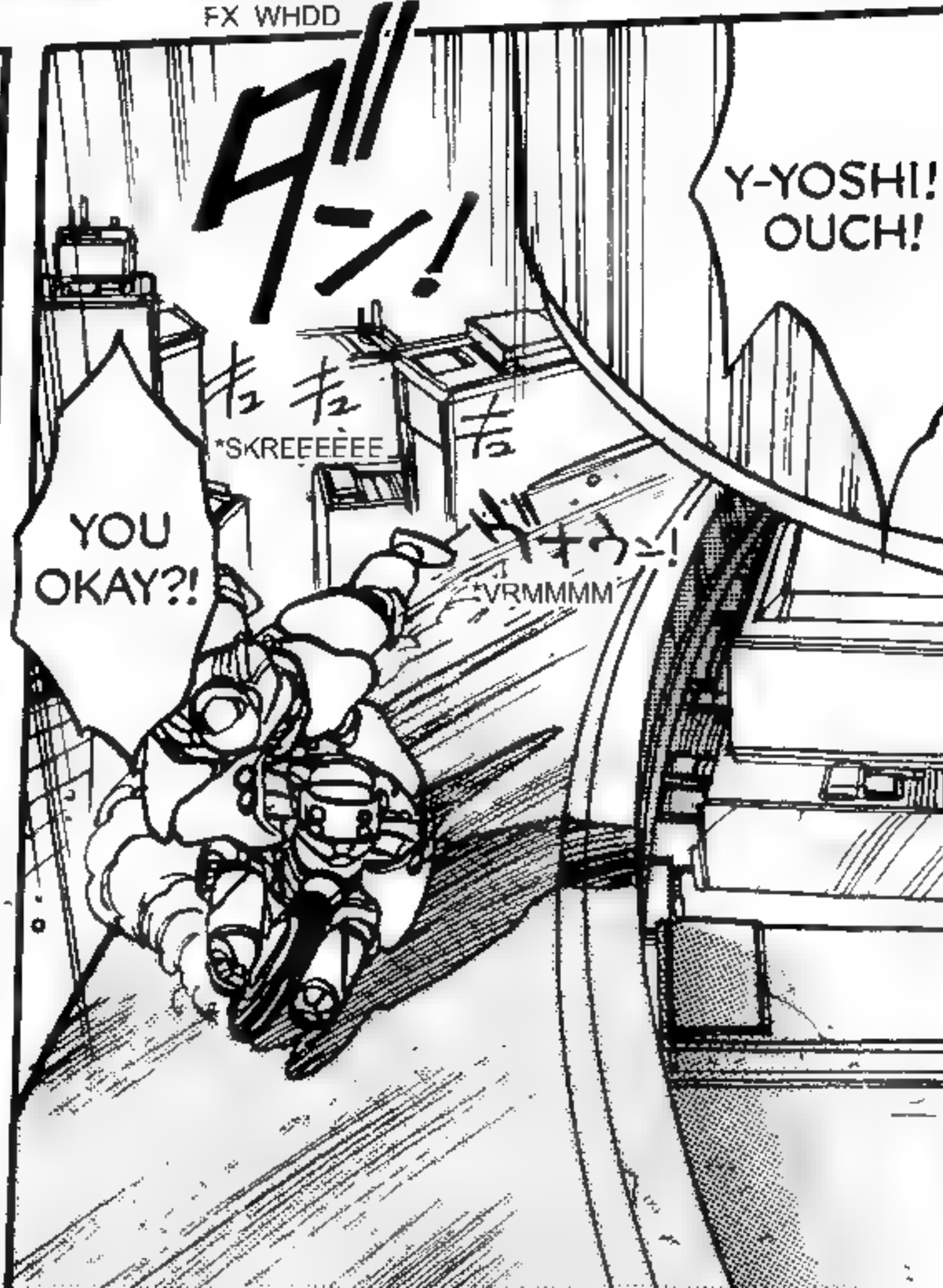
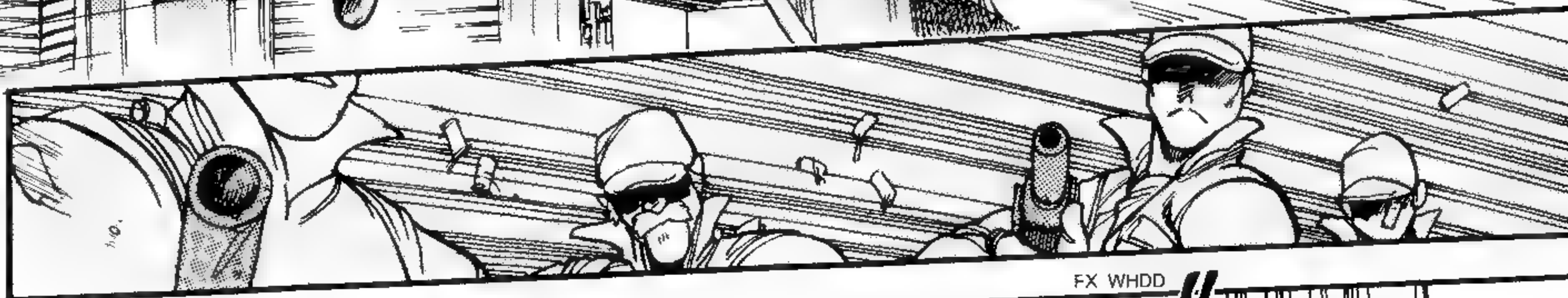
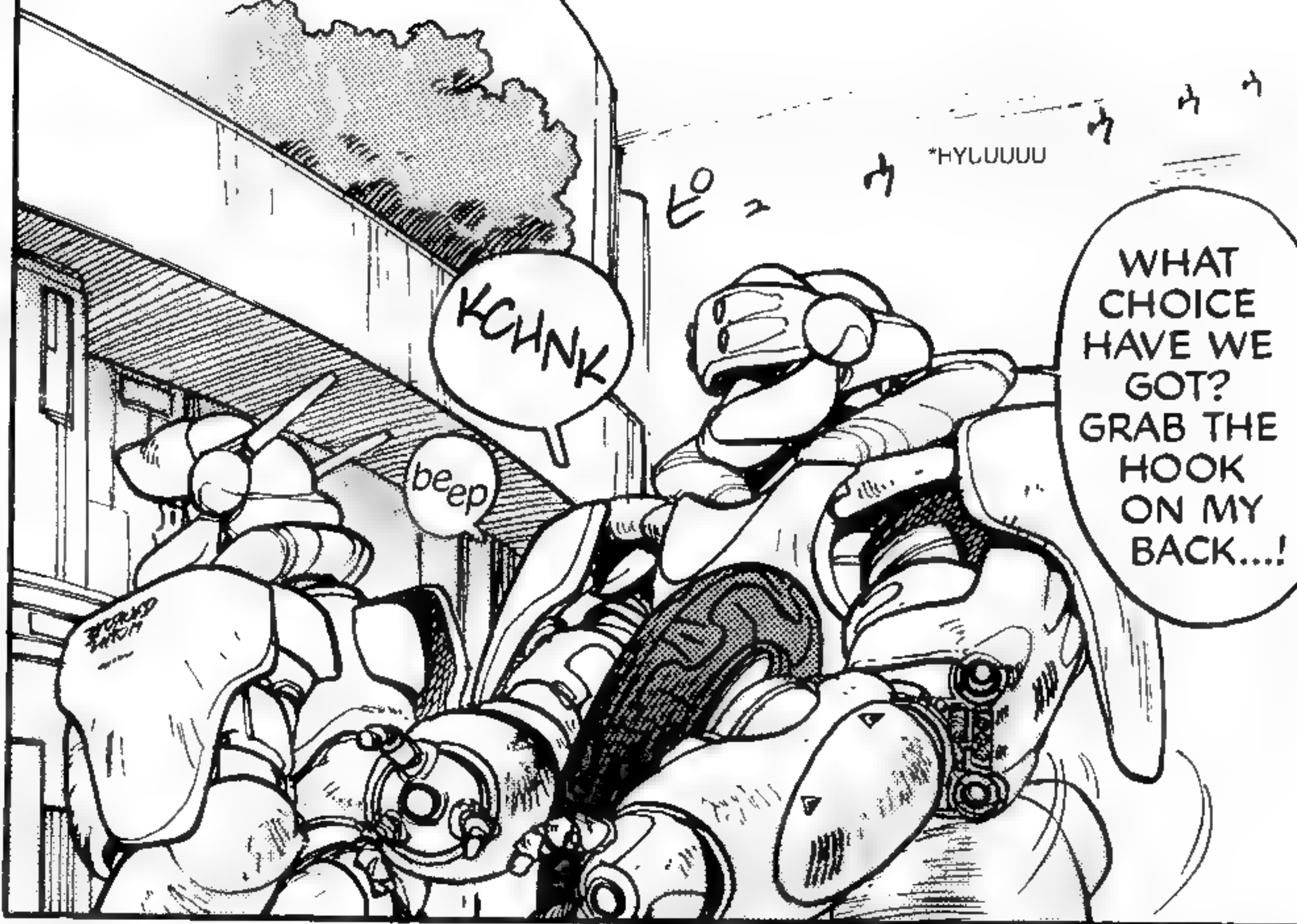


\*FX ZASH

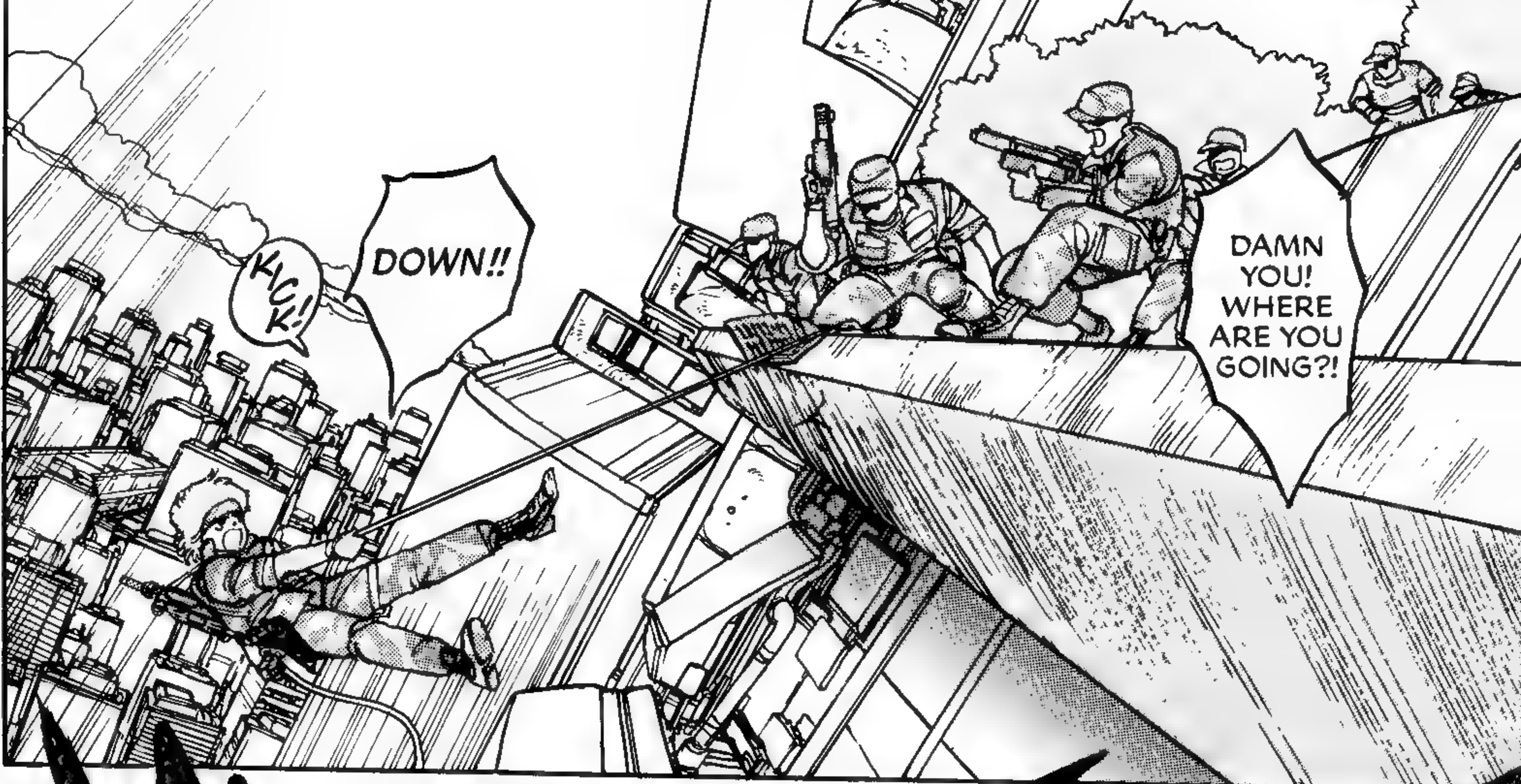




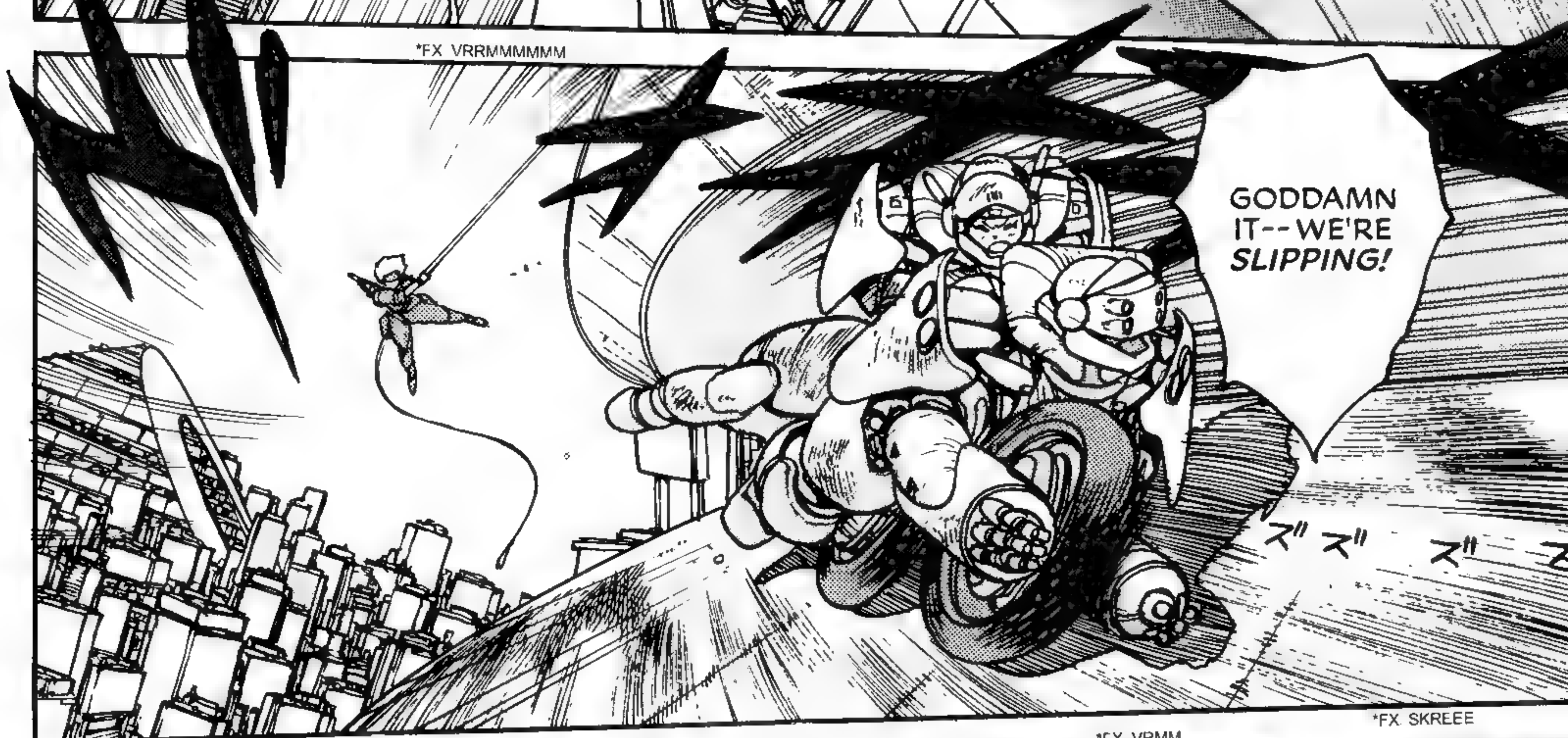






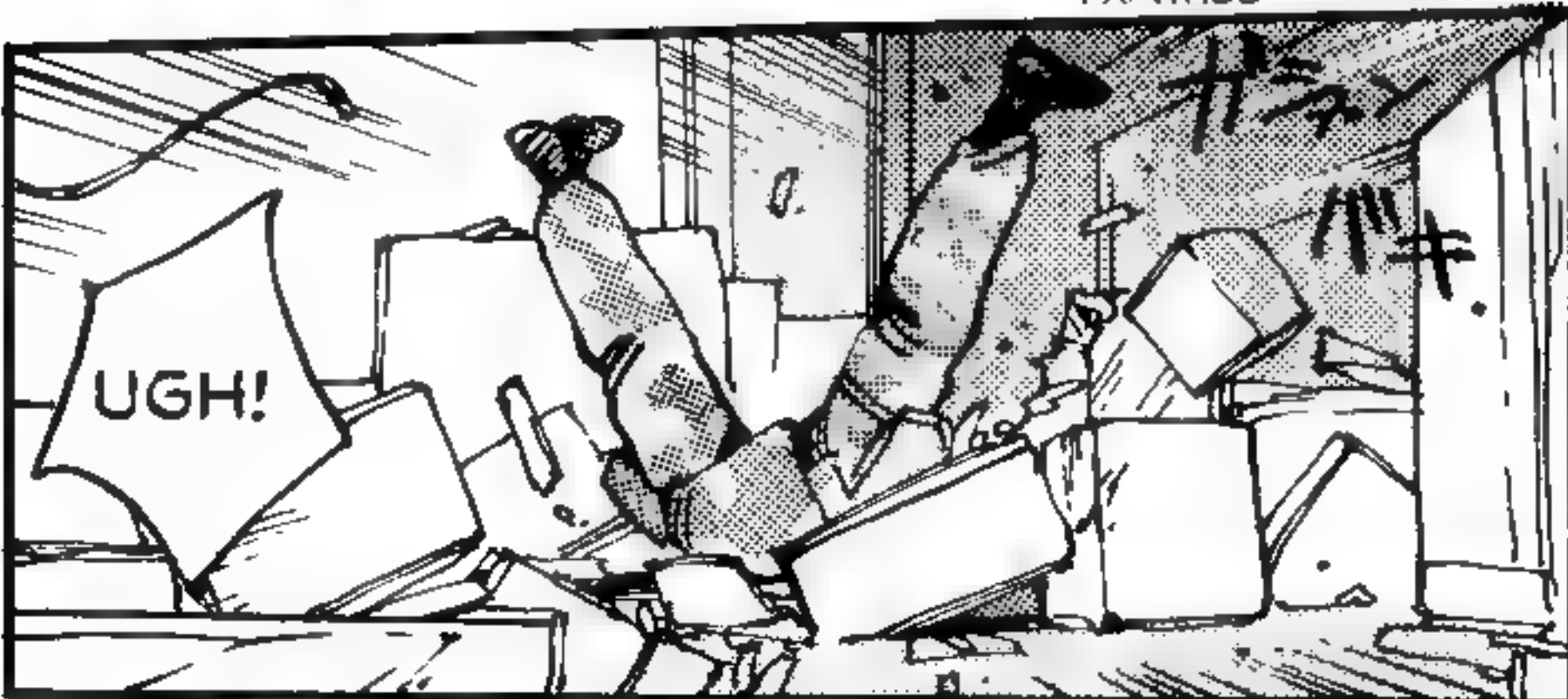


\*FX VRRMMMMMM



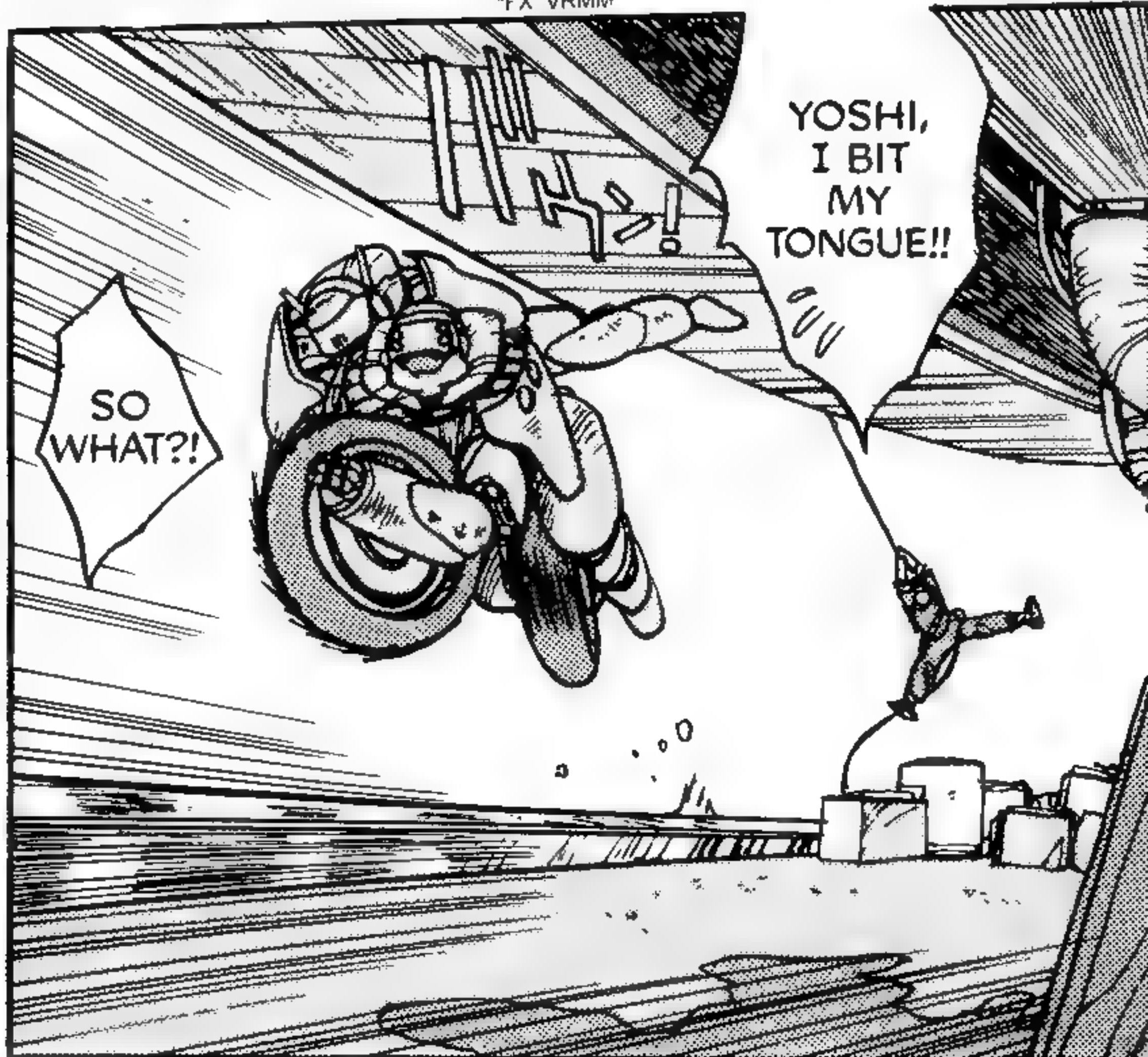
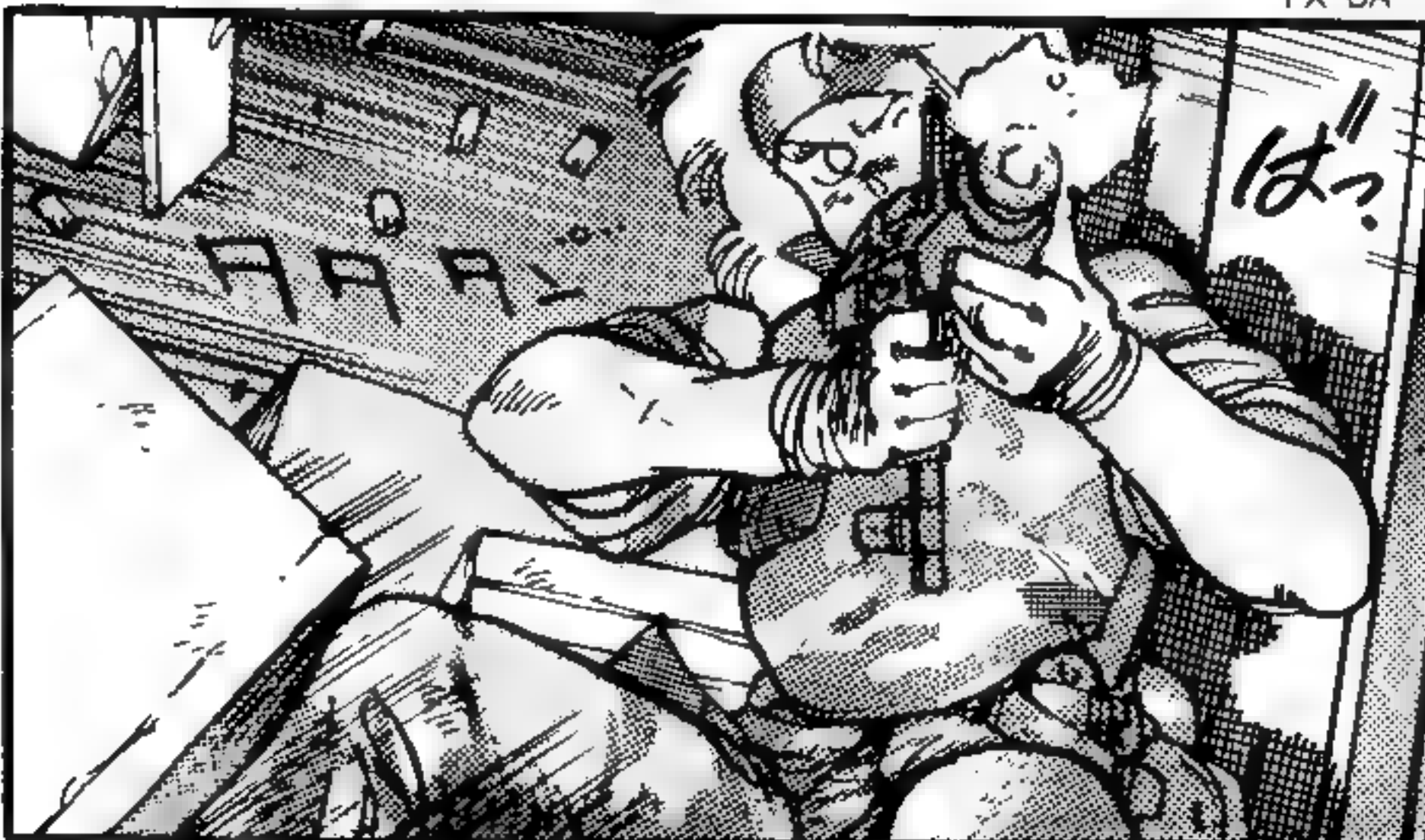
\*FX SKREEE

\*FX WHDD \*FX KRAK

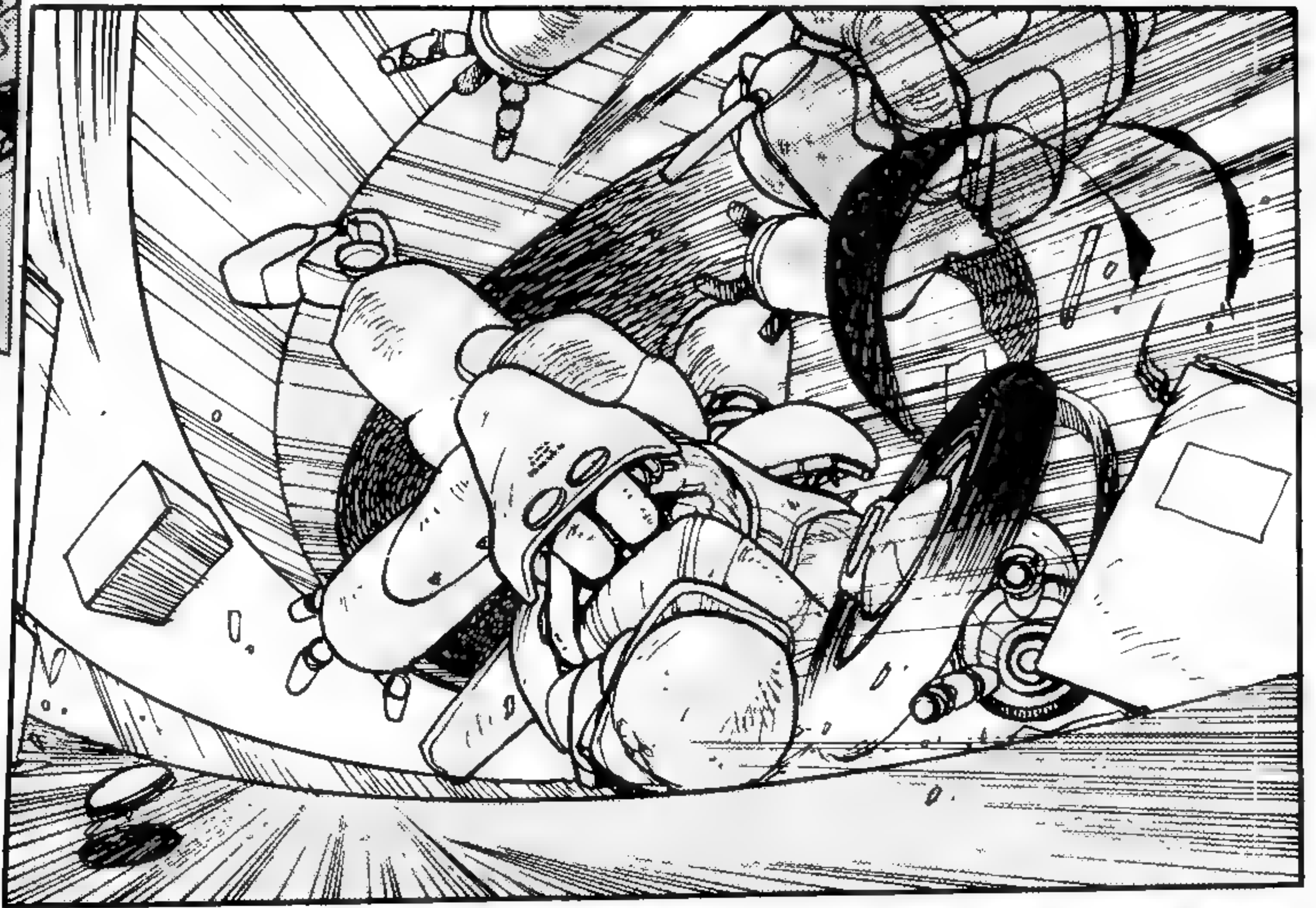


\*FX BRITT

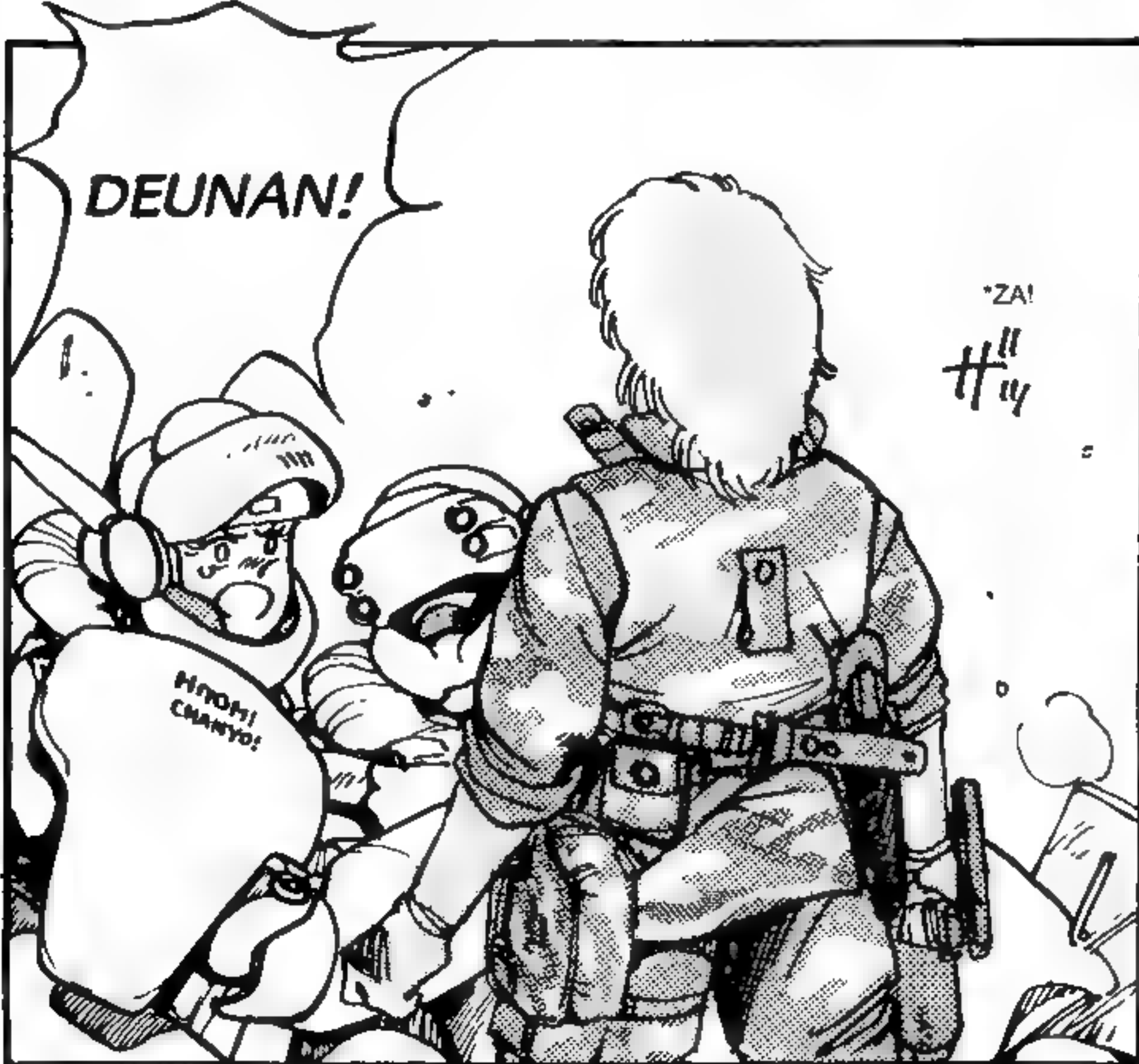
\*FX BA







\*FX KRAK \*FX SKRASH



DEUNAN!

\*ZA!

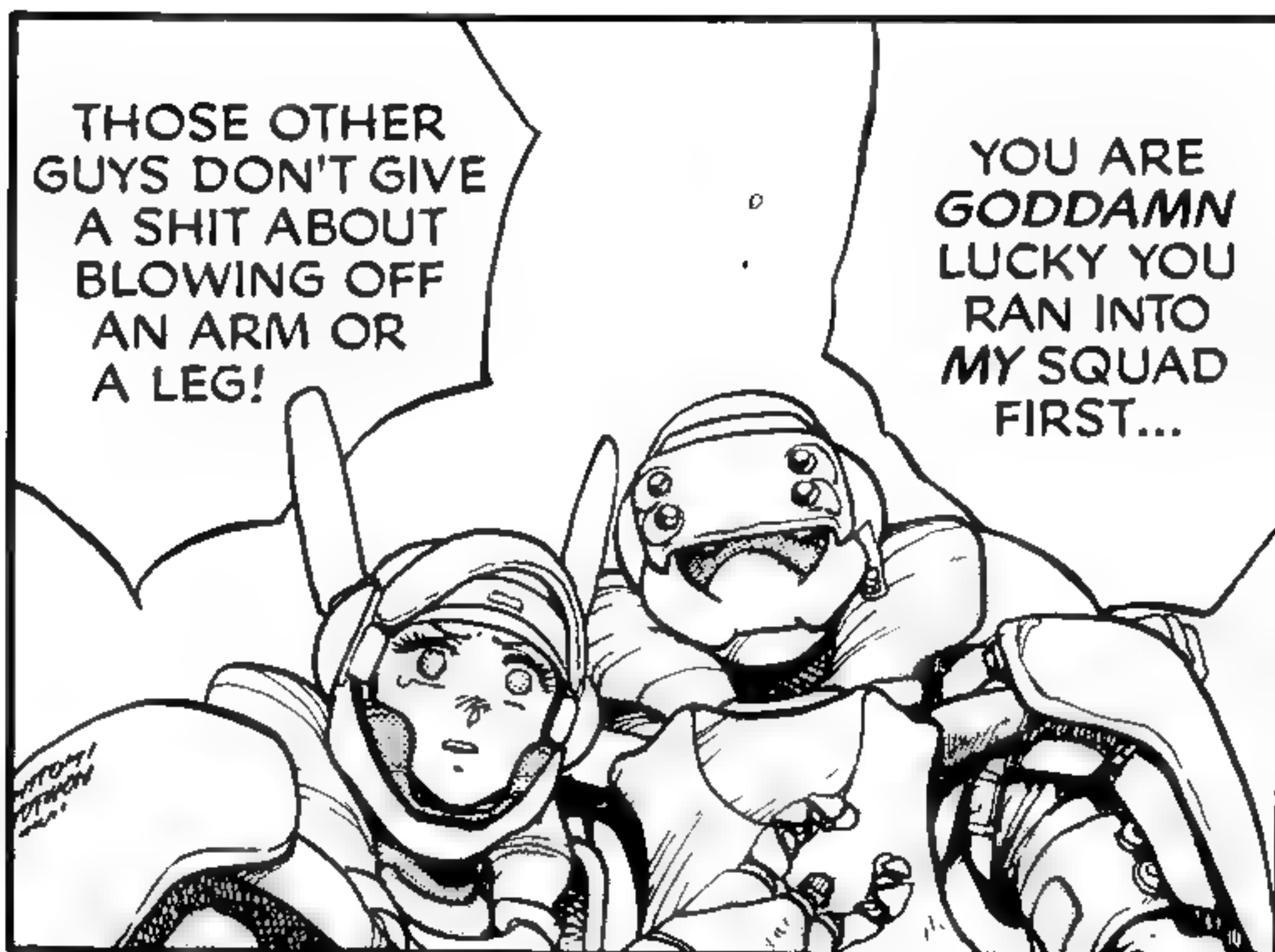
#11

HYOMI  
CHANYO!



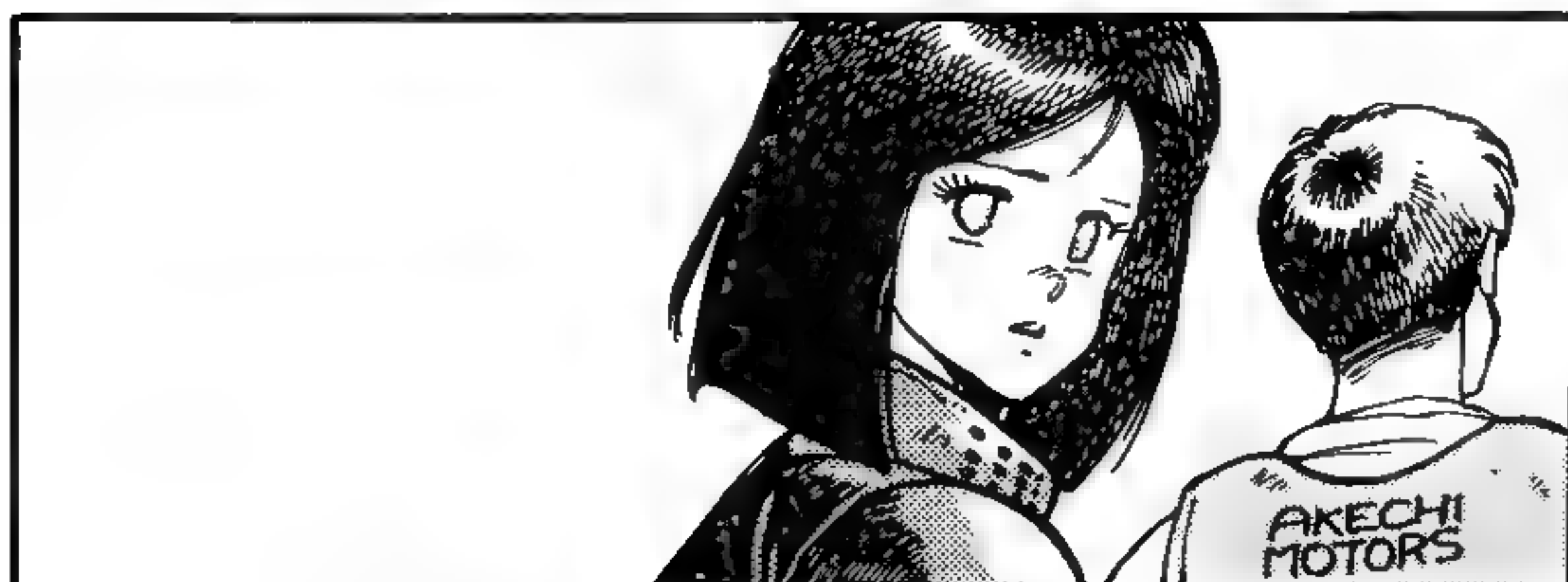
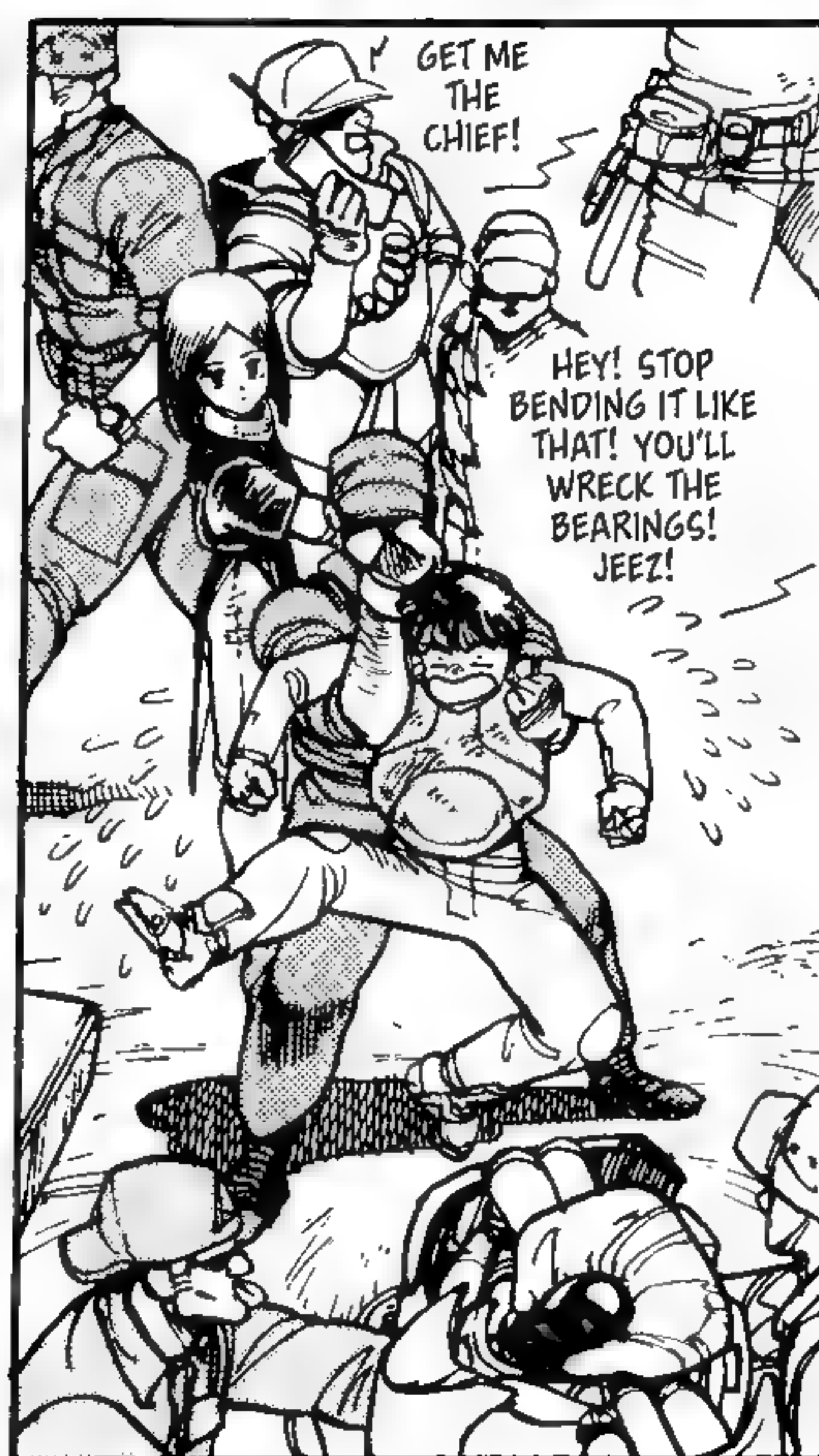
HNNG!



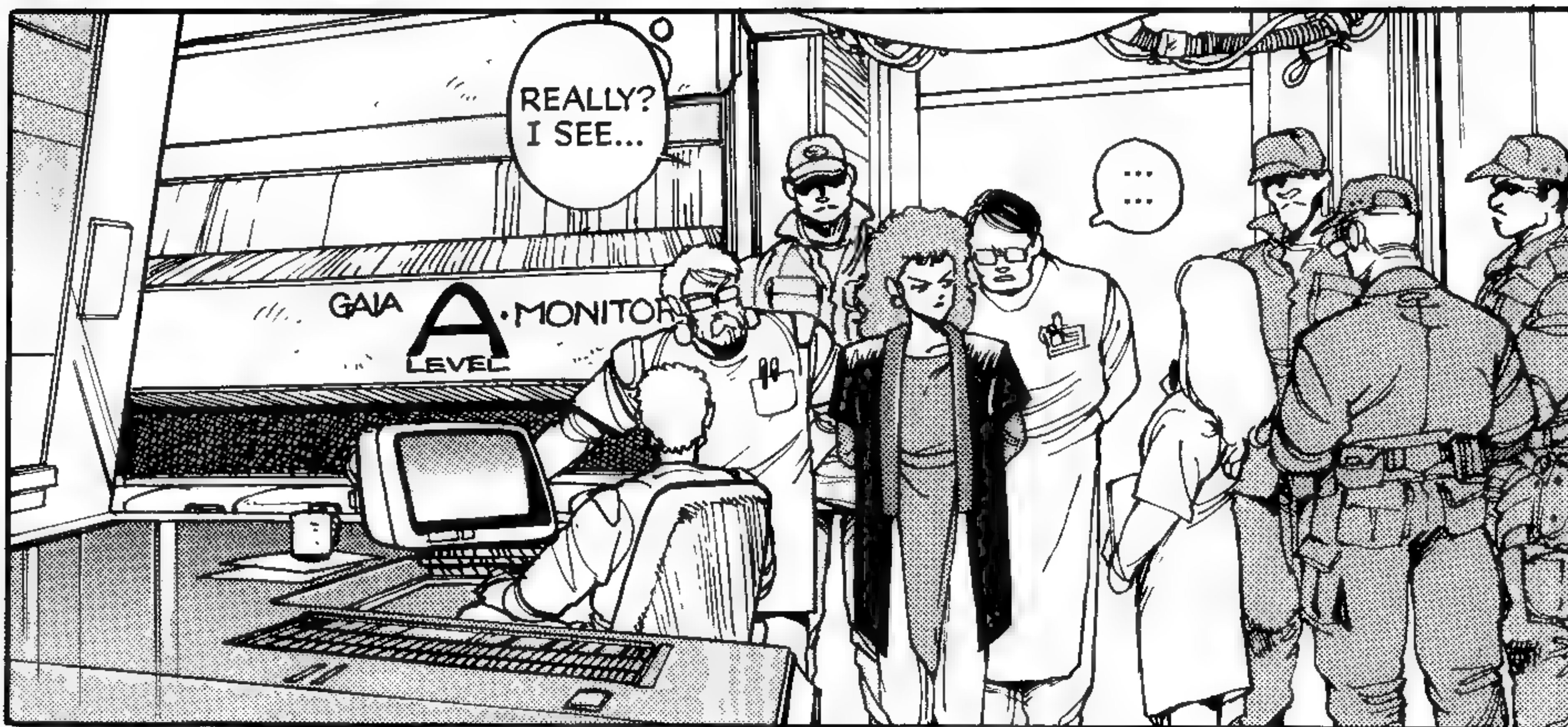


\*FX KRAK

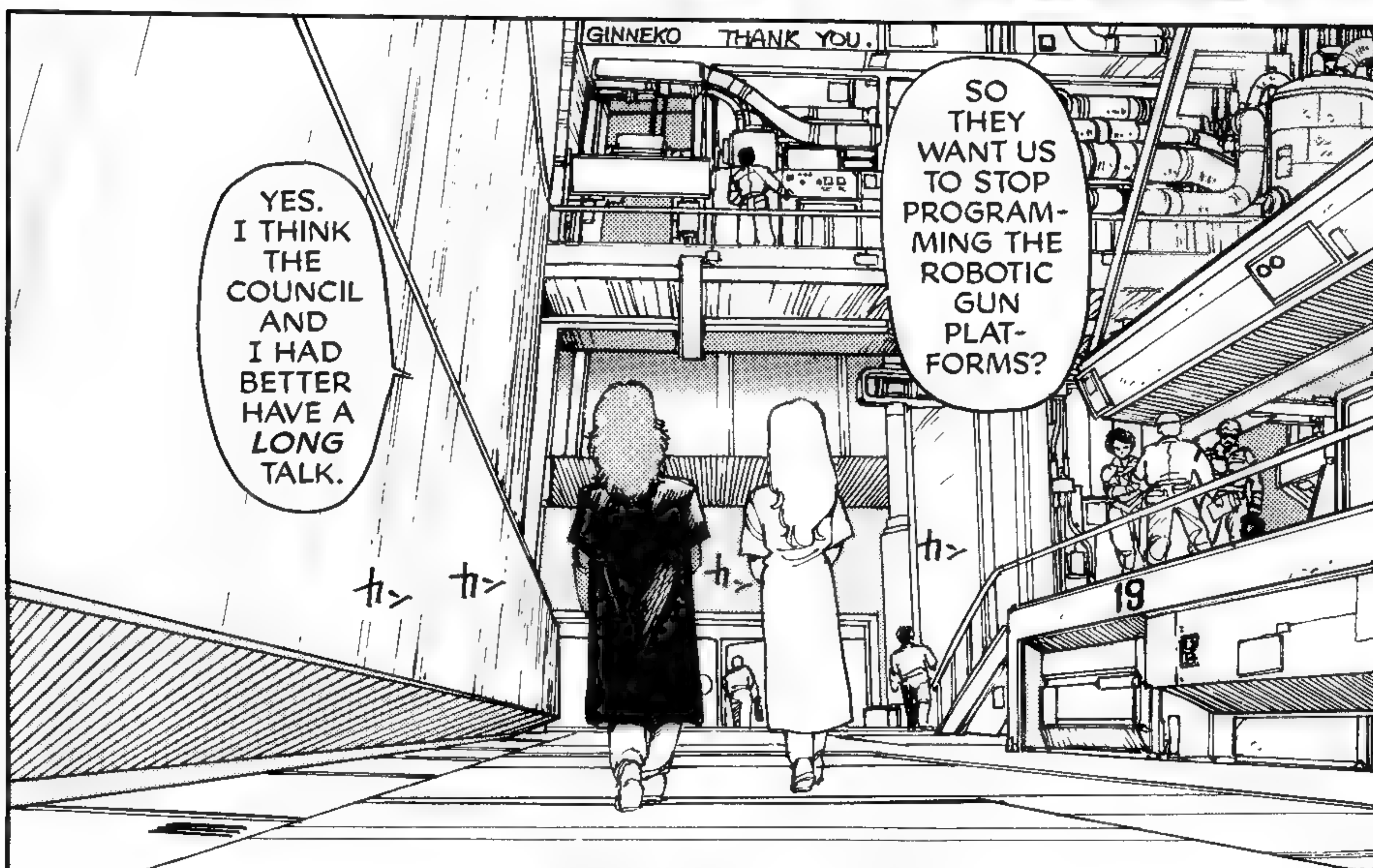
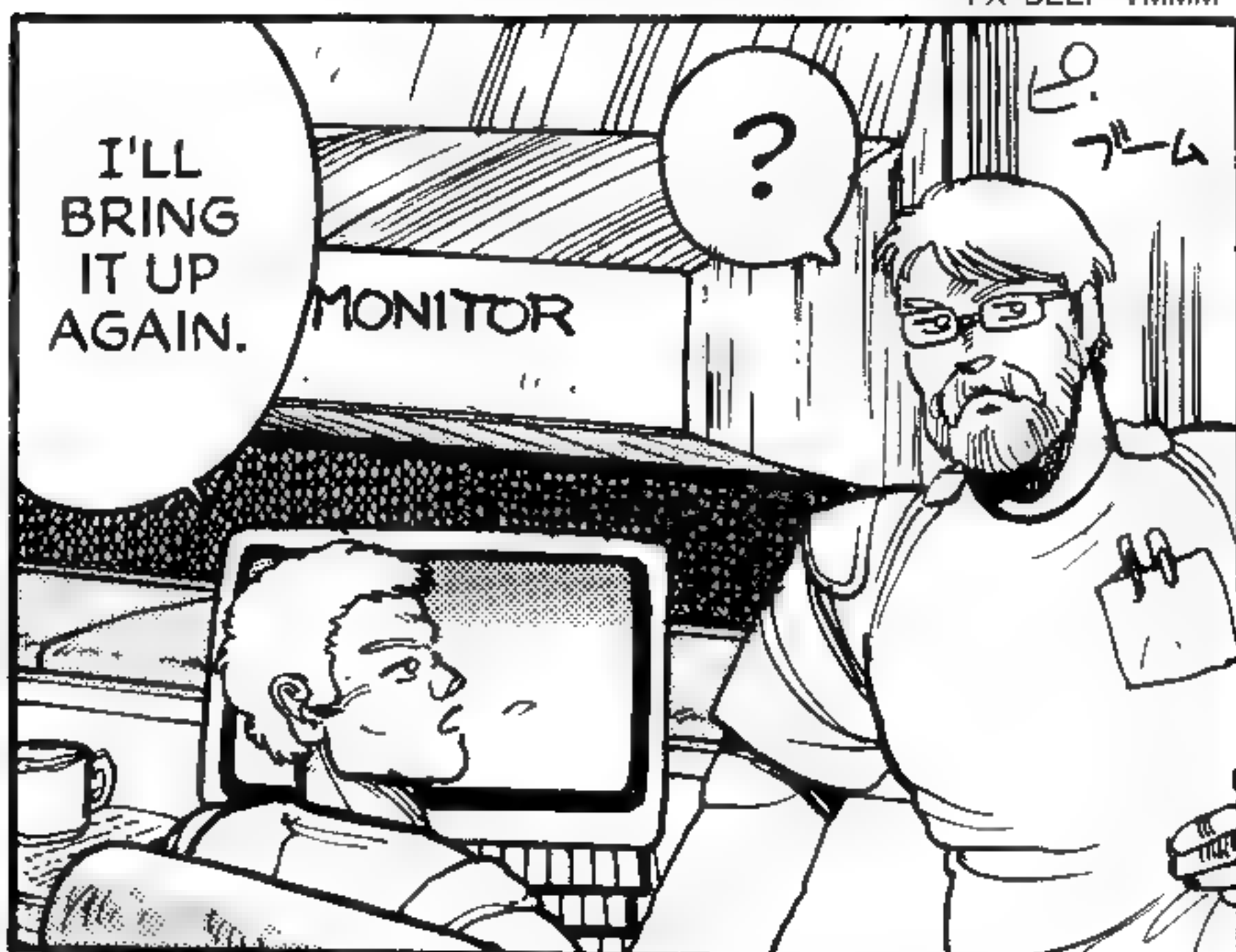
\*FX ZAI ZAI ZAI





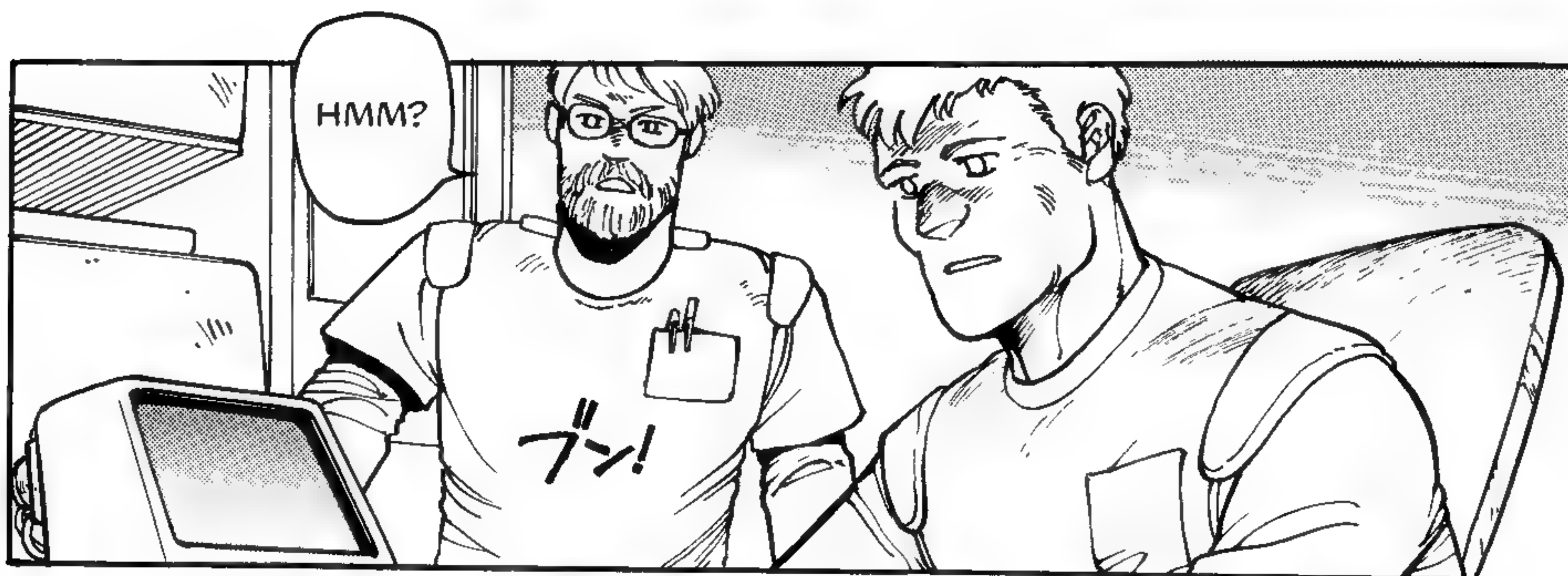


\*FX BEEP VMMM



\*FX KTAK KTAK KTAK KTAK





\*FX VNN

\*FX BEEP

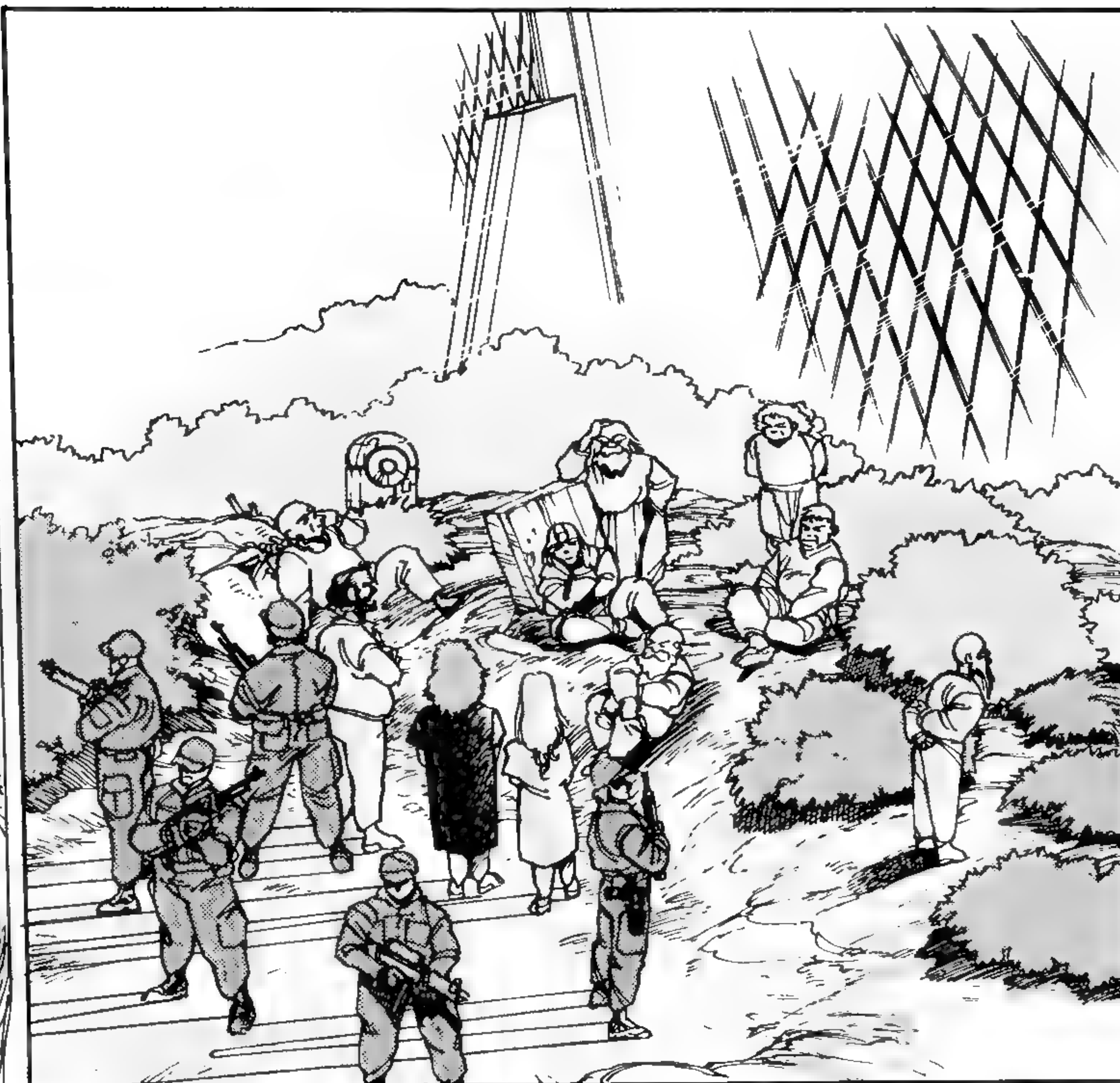


\*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM





NOW,  
IF I  
WERE  
GAIA...



...I'D  
CONCLUDE  
THAT  
BIOROIDS--  
AND FOR THAT  
MATTER, THIS  
ENTIRE  
SCIENTIFIC  
UTOPIA--  
AREN'T WHAT  
HUMANS  
REALLY  
WANT.

...AND  
PROB-  
ABLY...

NATU-  
RALLY, I'D  
WANT TO  
CONSULT AT  
LENGTH  
WITH TAR-  
TARUS...

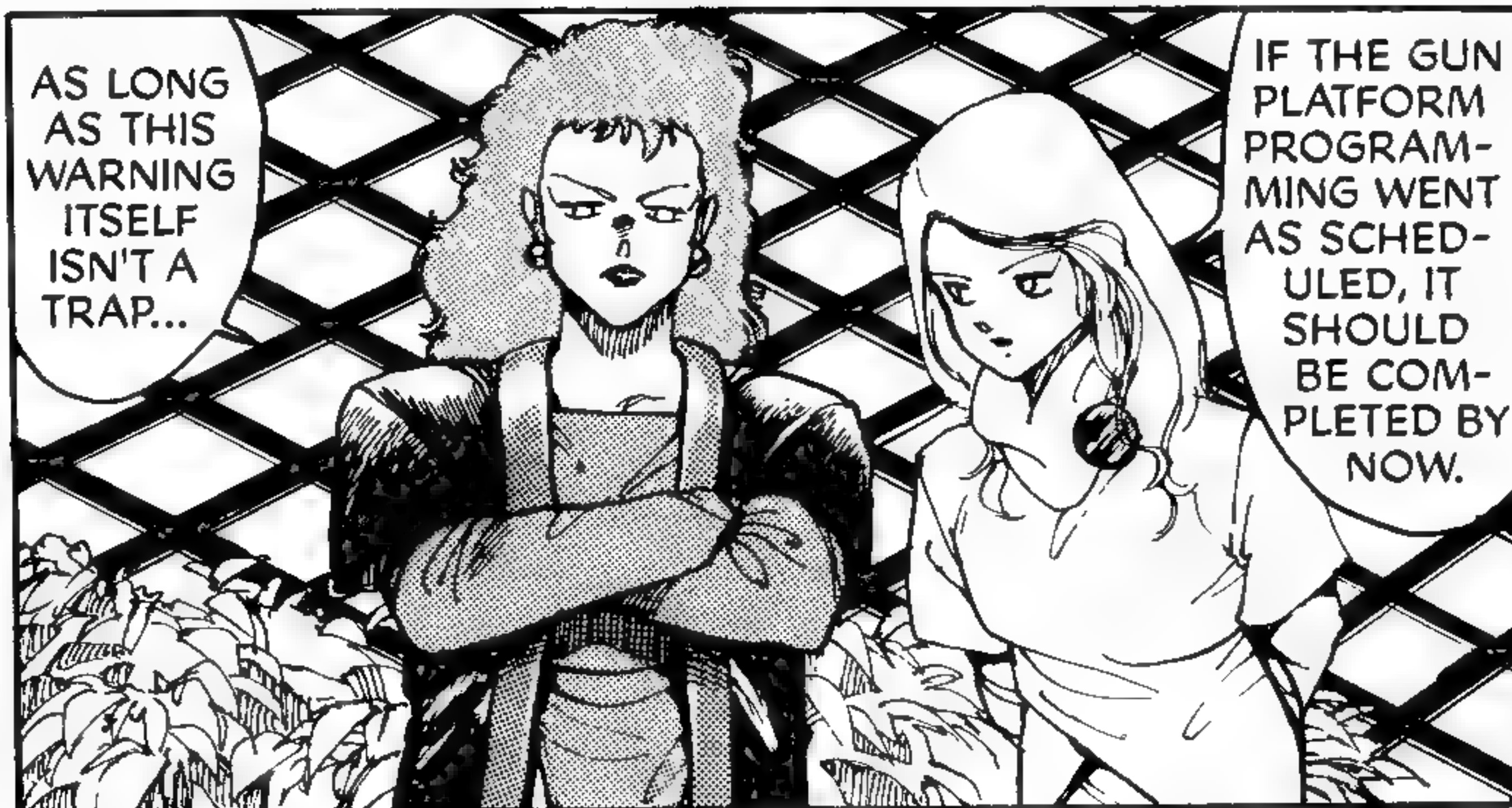
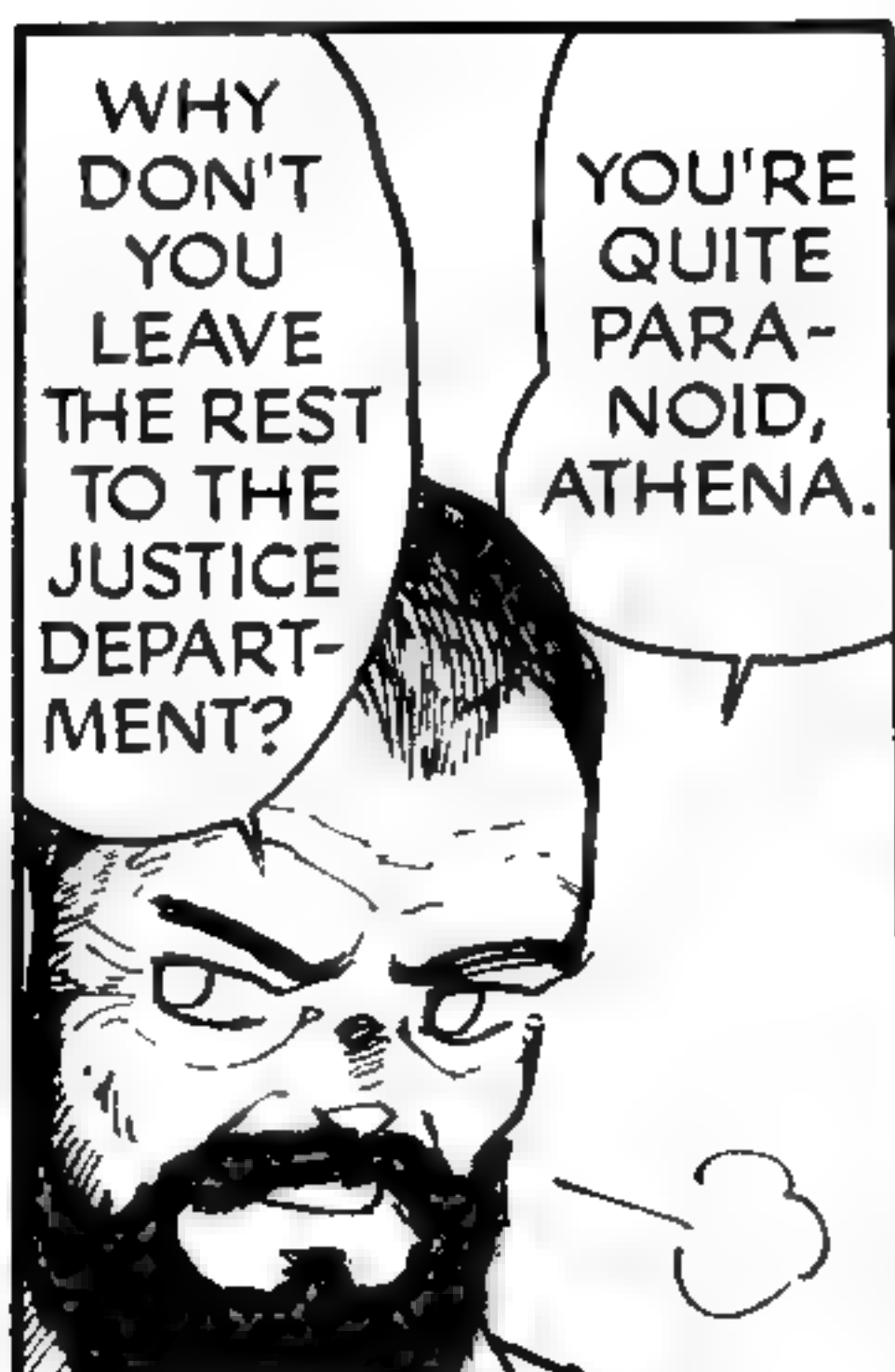
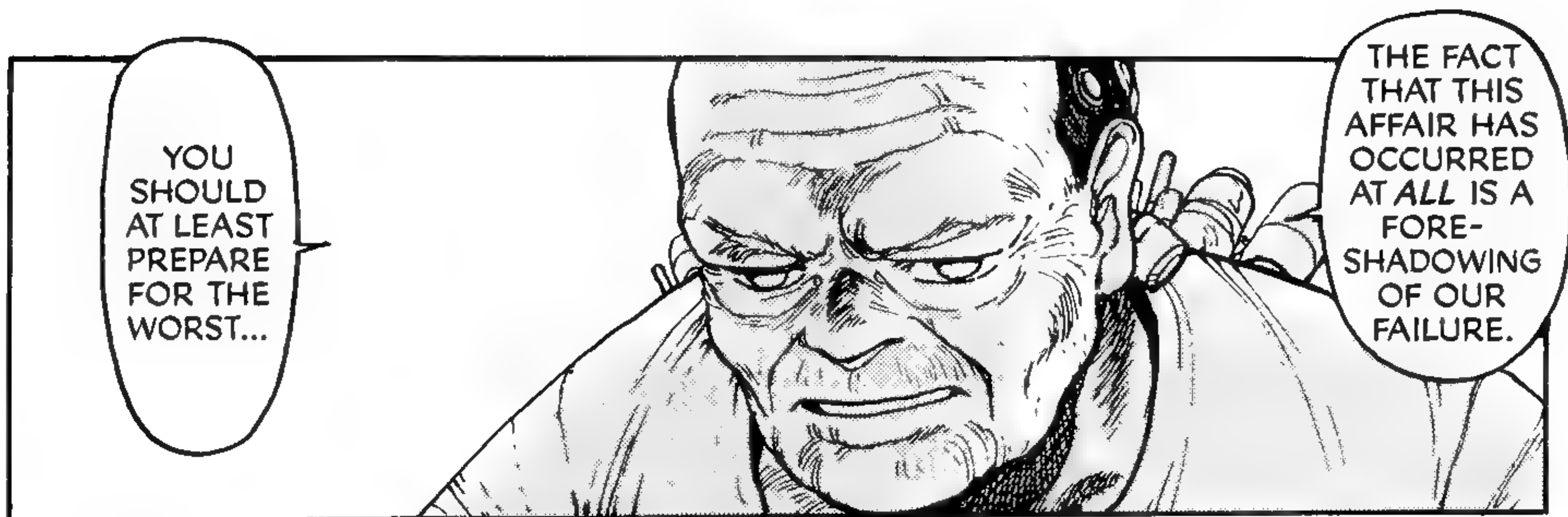
...THE SAME  
PROPOSAL  
THAT MADE  
YOU SO  
SUSPICIOUS  
OF US  
WOULD  
MAKE ME  
SUSPICIOUS  
OF EVERY  
BIOROID.



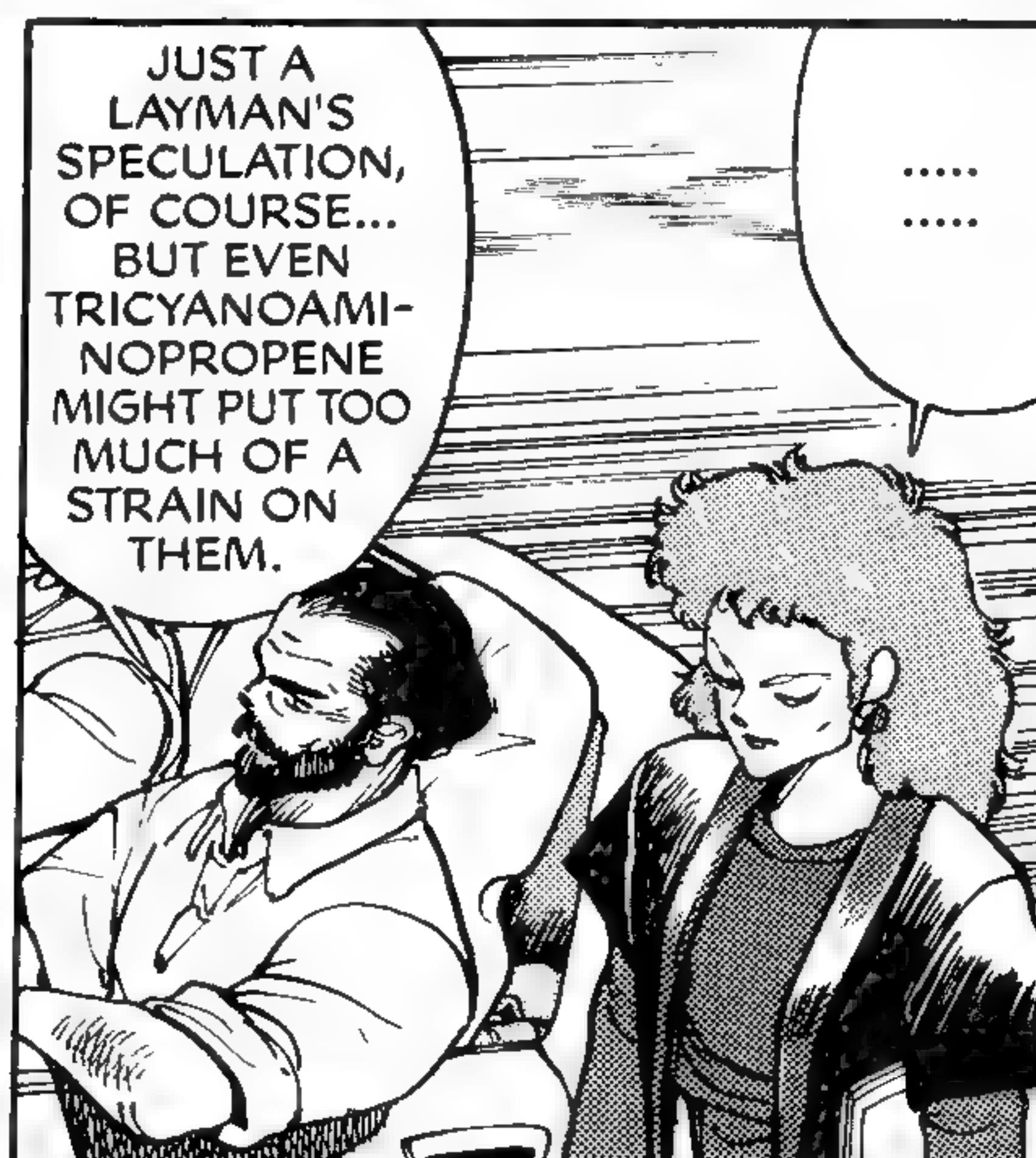
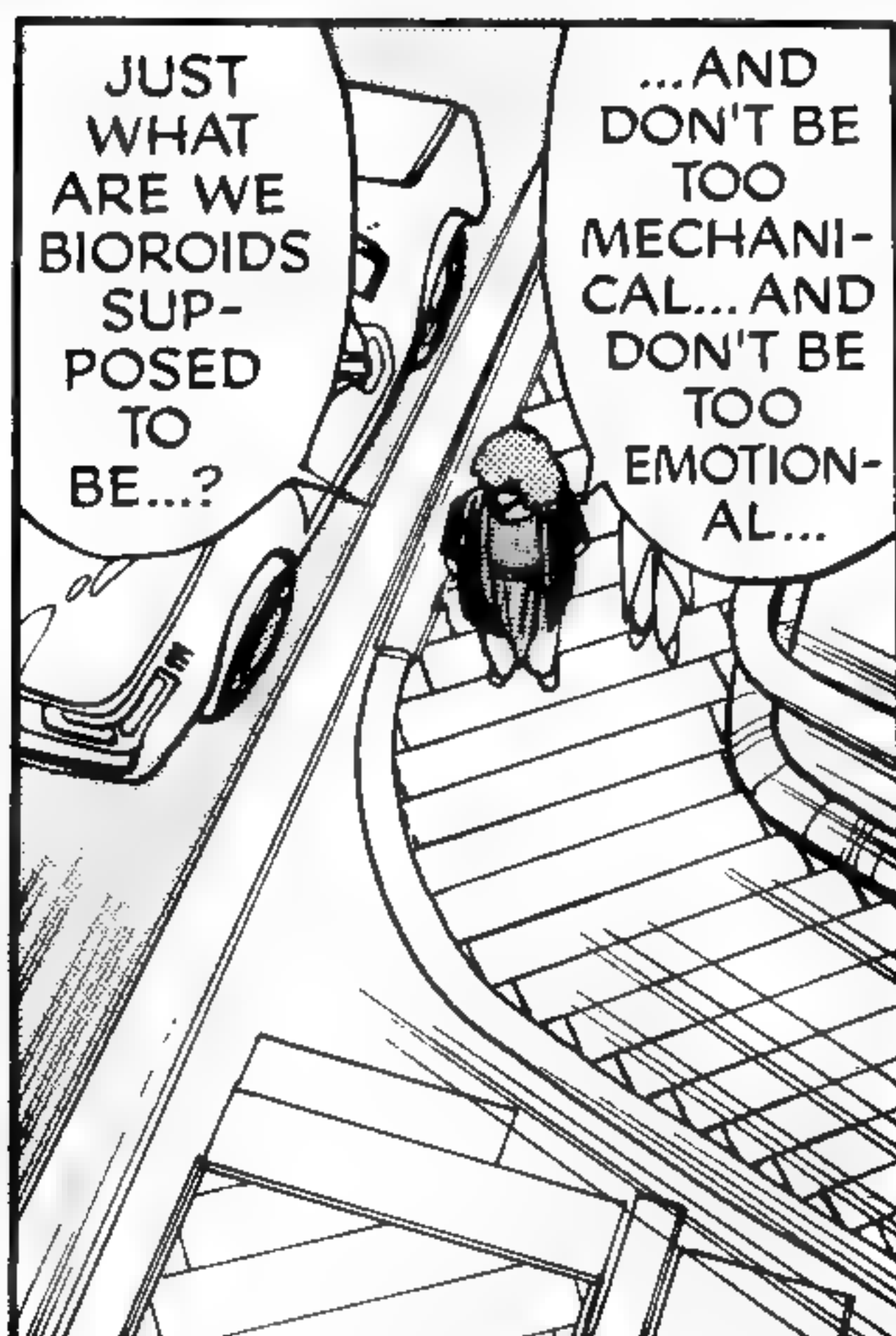
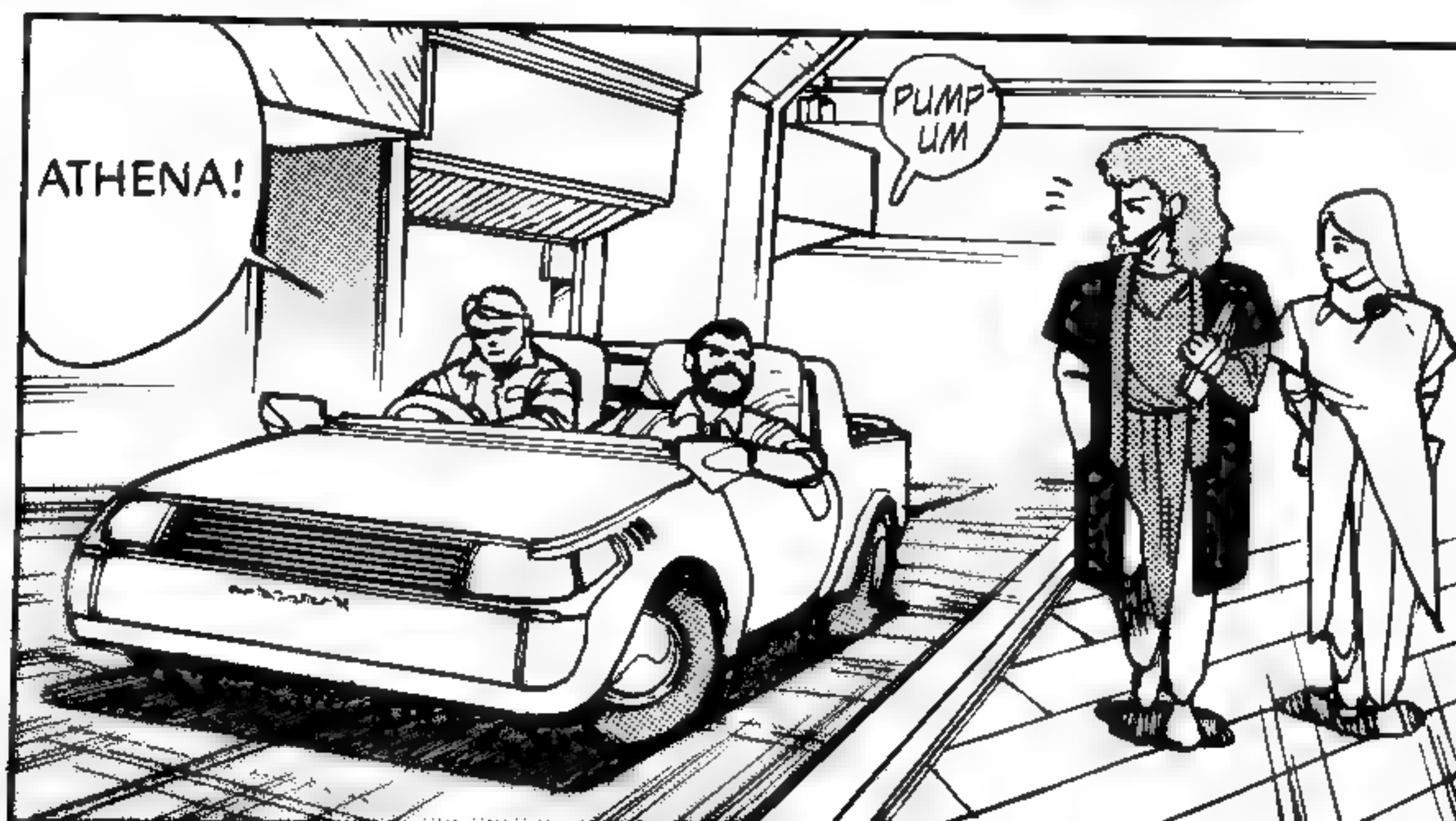
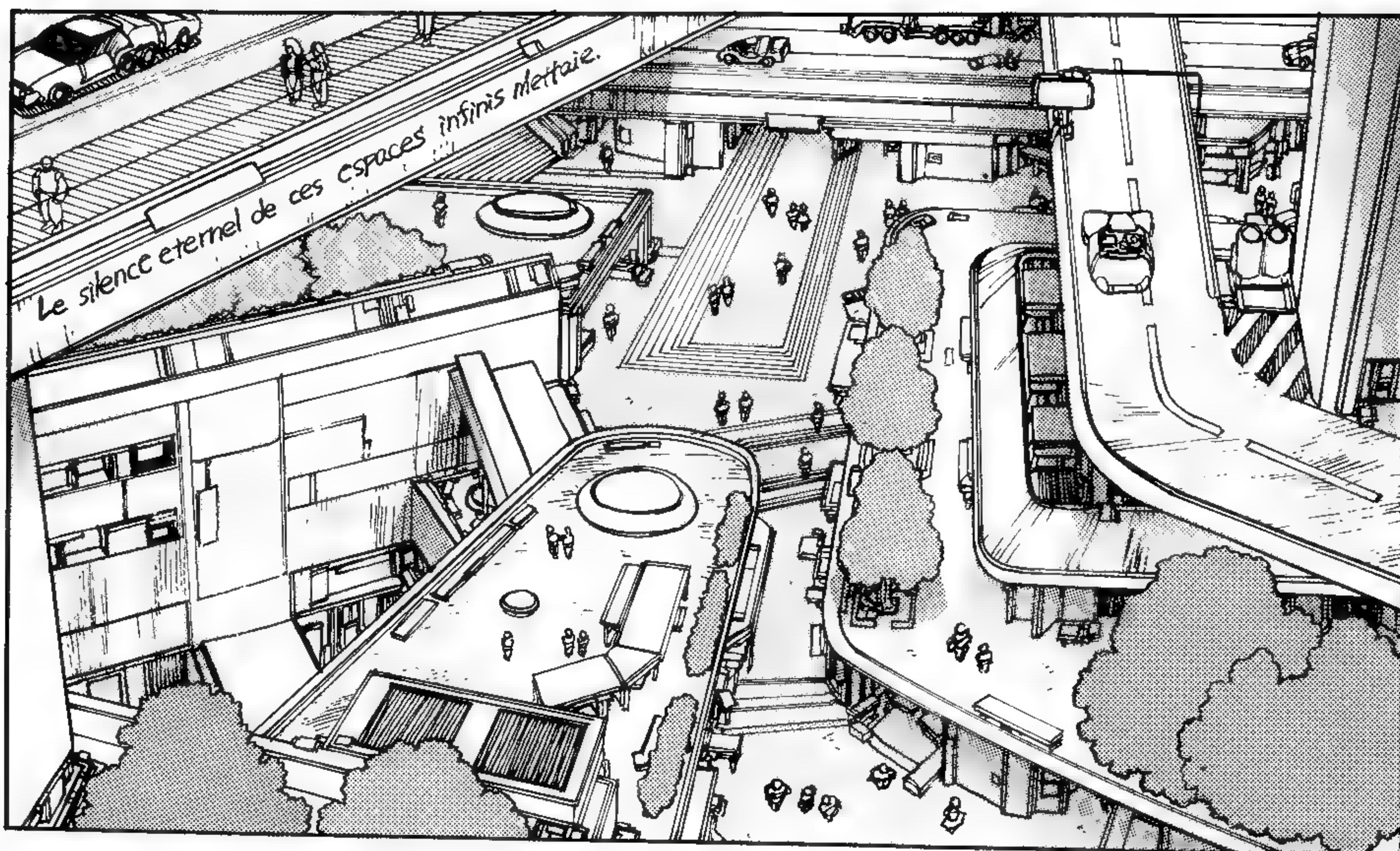
...ARE  
LIKELY TO  
BECOME  
THE  
SAVAGE  
INSTRU-  
MENTS OF  
A WRATH-  
FUL GAIA,  
RIGHT?

SO  
YOU'RE  
SUGGEST-  
ING THAT  
THOSE  
ROBOT  
GUN PLAT-  
FORMS...













\*FX BEEEEEP

\*FX TAK TAK TAKKA TAK

\*FX VVVVN

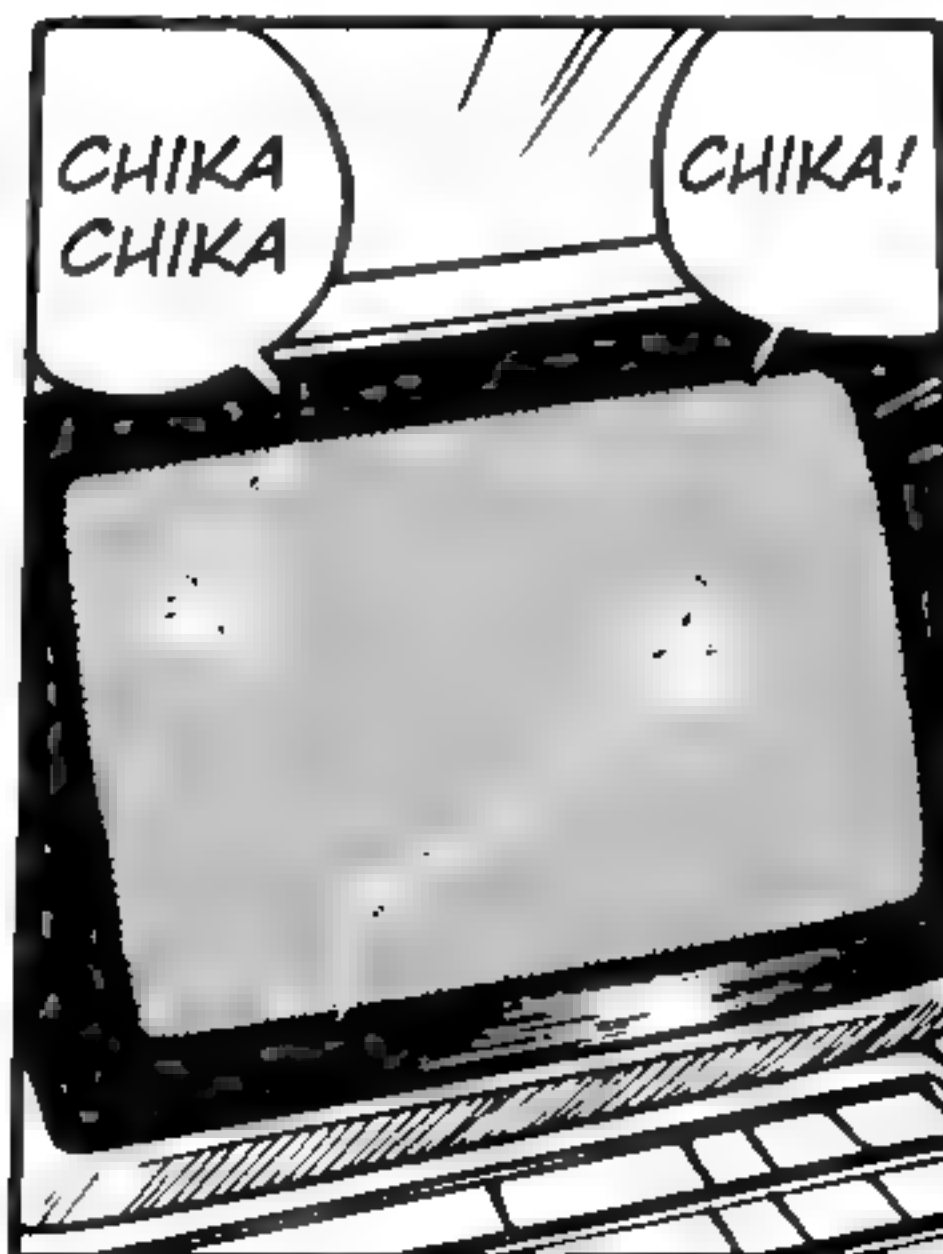


UNTIL  
THOSE GUN  
PLATFORMS  
SAY, "I'M  
FULL,  
MOMMY!"

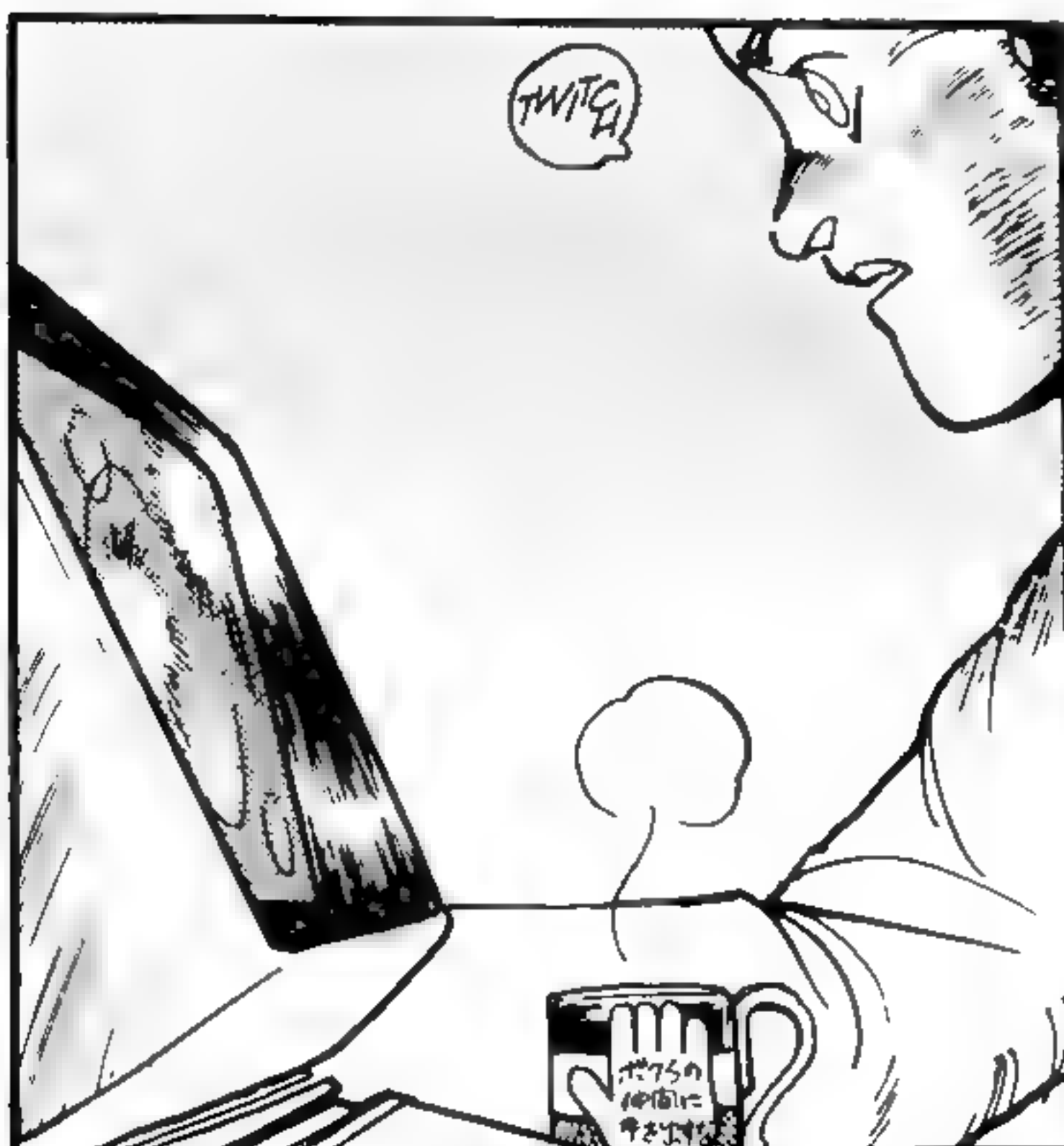
CHRIST,  
THIS IS  
DRIVING ME  
NUTS! HOW  
LONG IS GAIA  
GOING TO  
KEEP THIS  
UP?

\*FX CHAK

\*FX KLIK



THIS IS  
RUNNING  
WAY  
OVER THE  
SCHEDULED  
INPUT  
TIME!

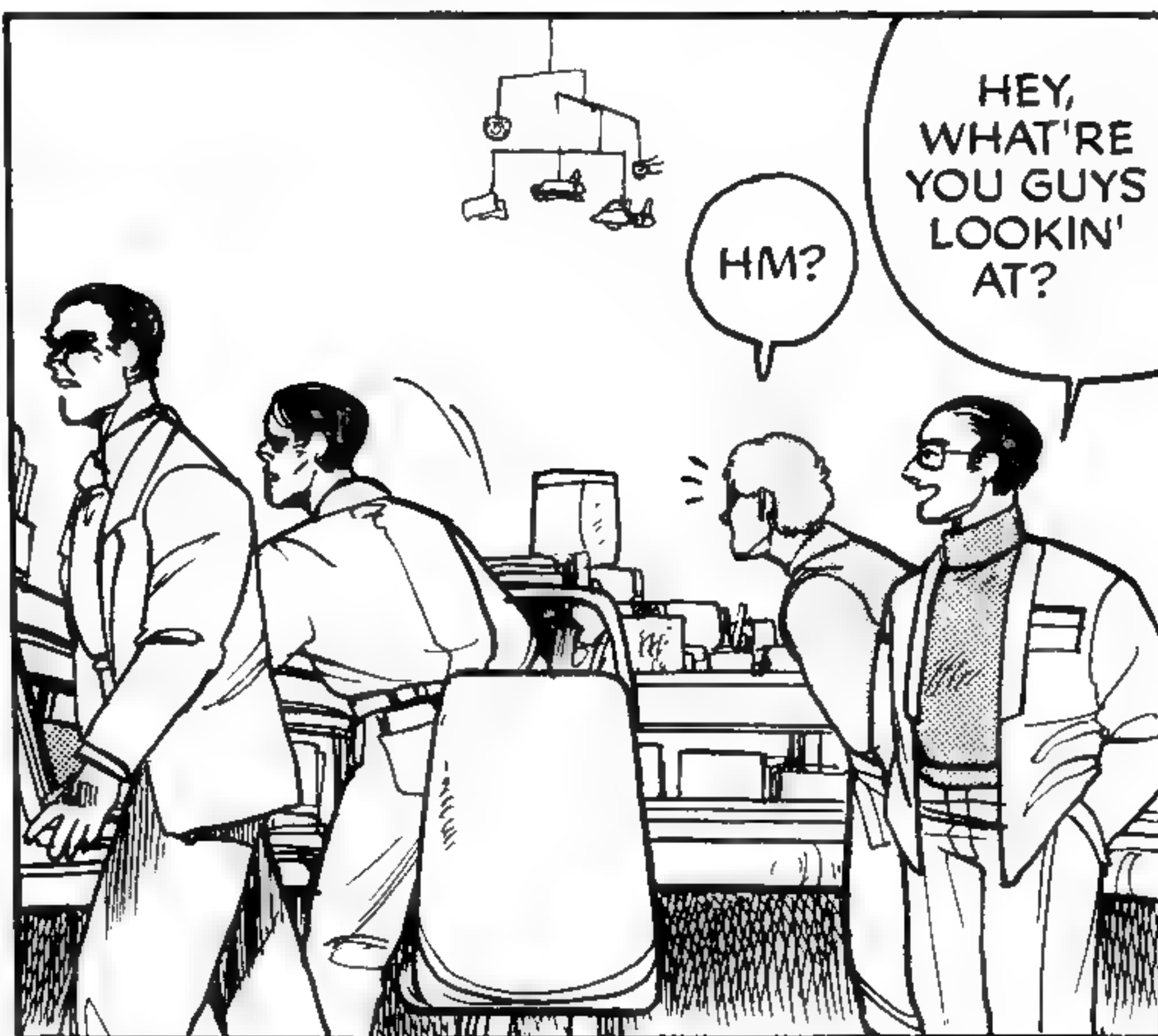


BUT PAY  
US IN  
ADVANCE  
THIS  
TIME!

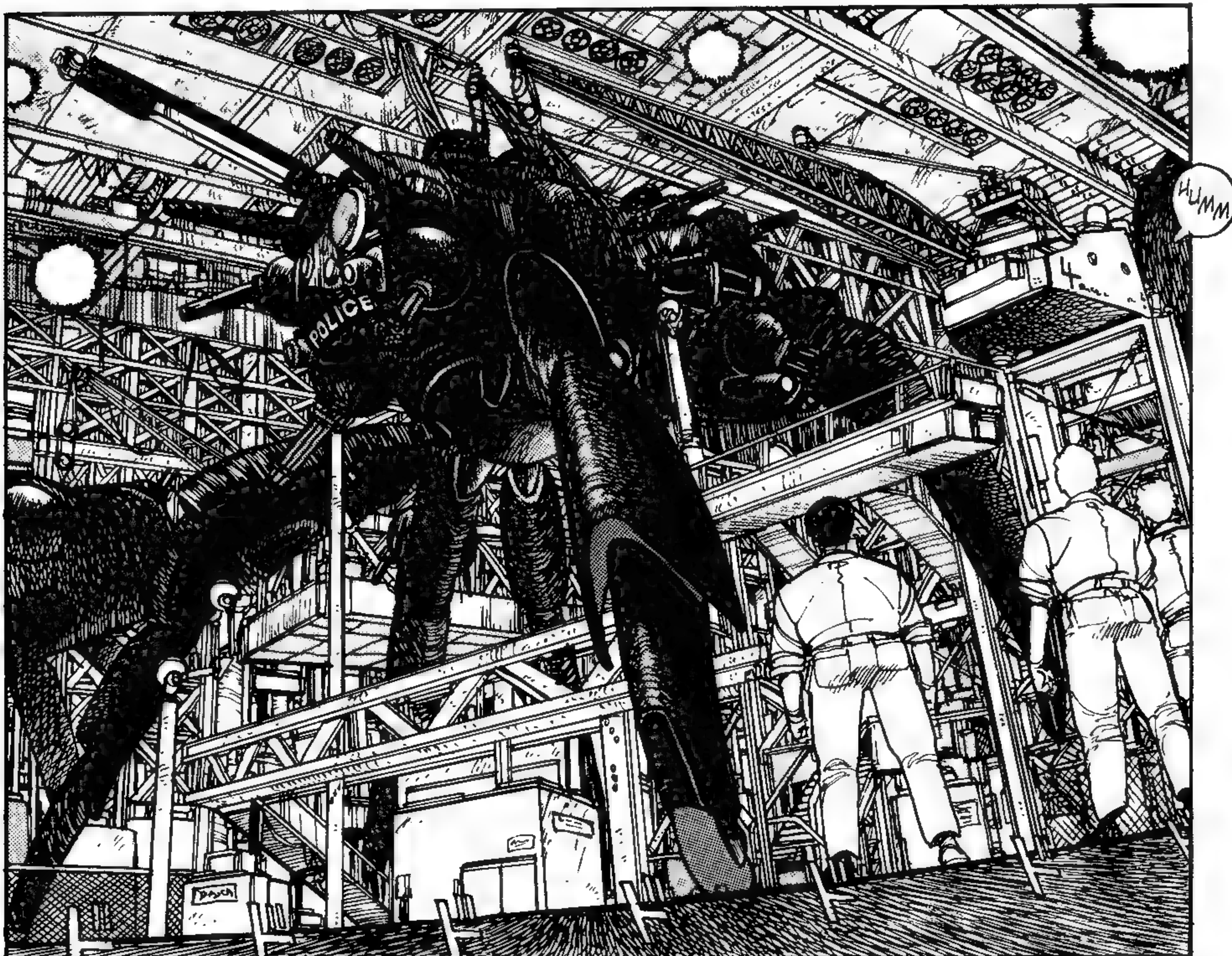
IF YOU  
WANT A  
BURGER,  
WE'LL  
PICK ONE  
UP FOR  
YOU...

\*cup. DON'T MESS WITH OUR PEOPLE



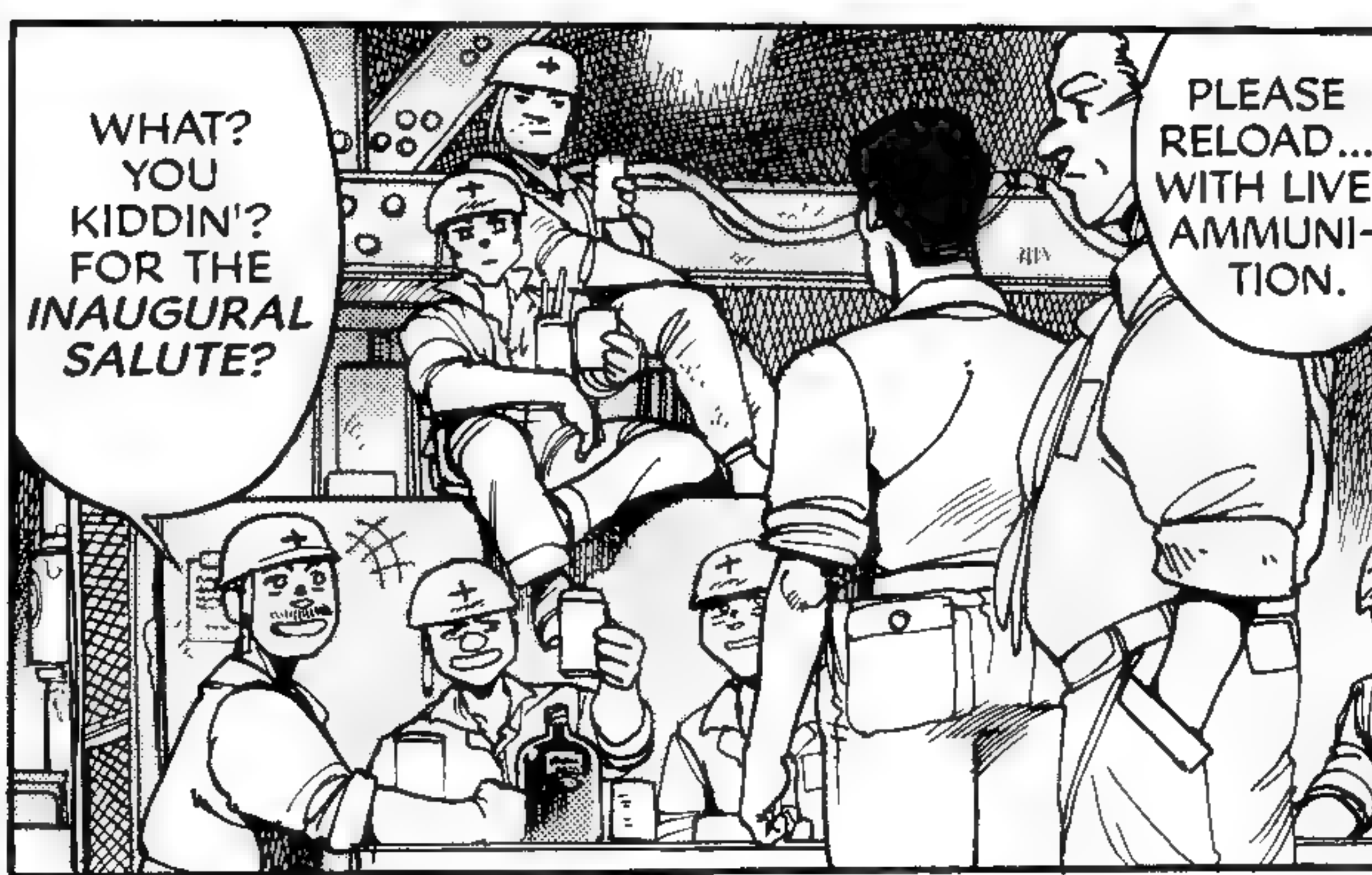
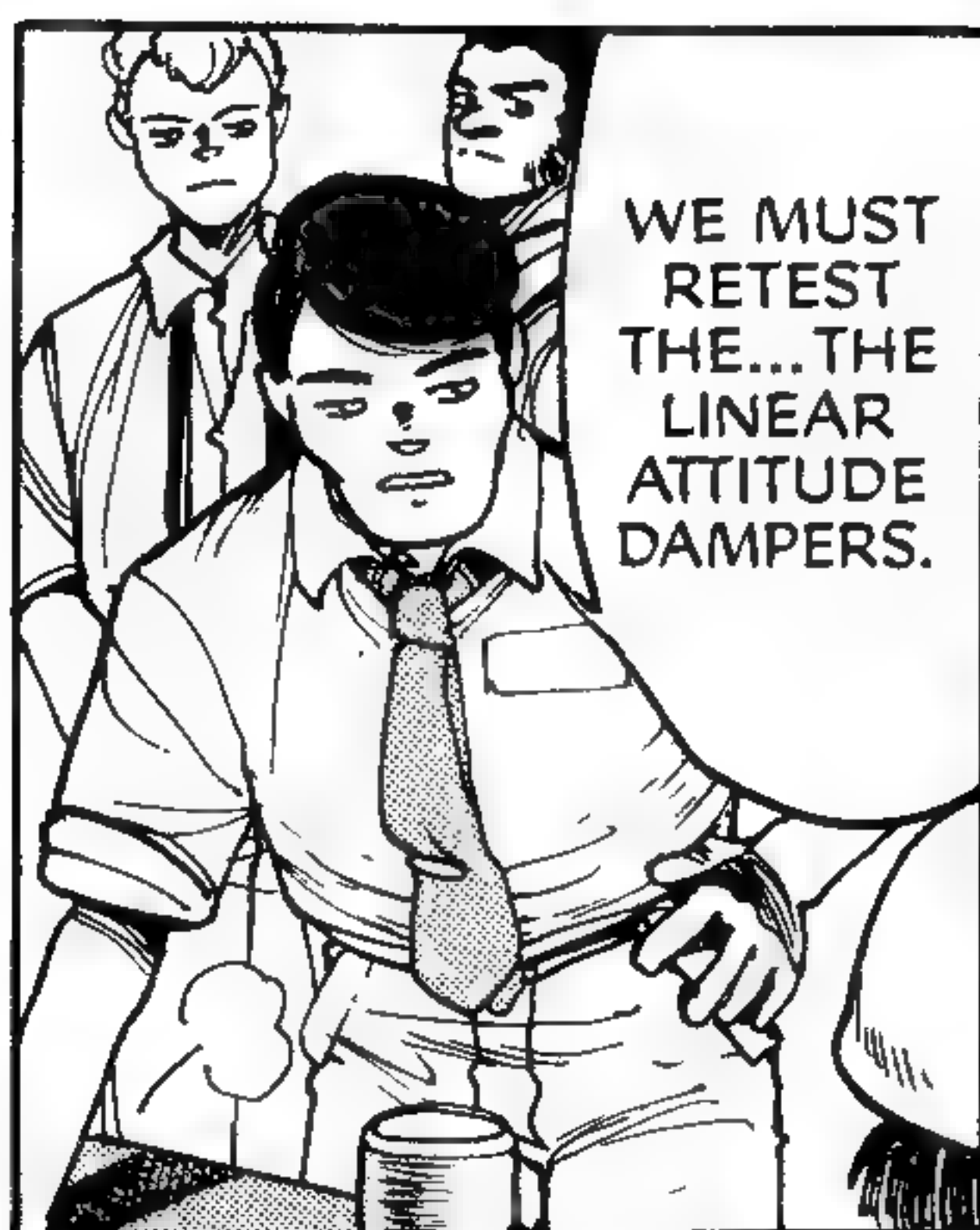
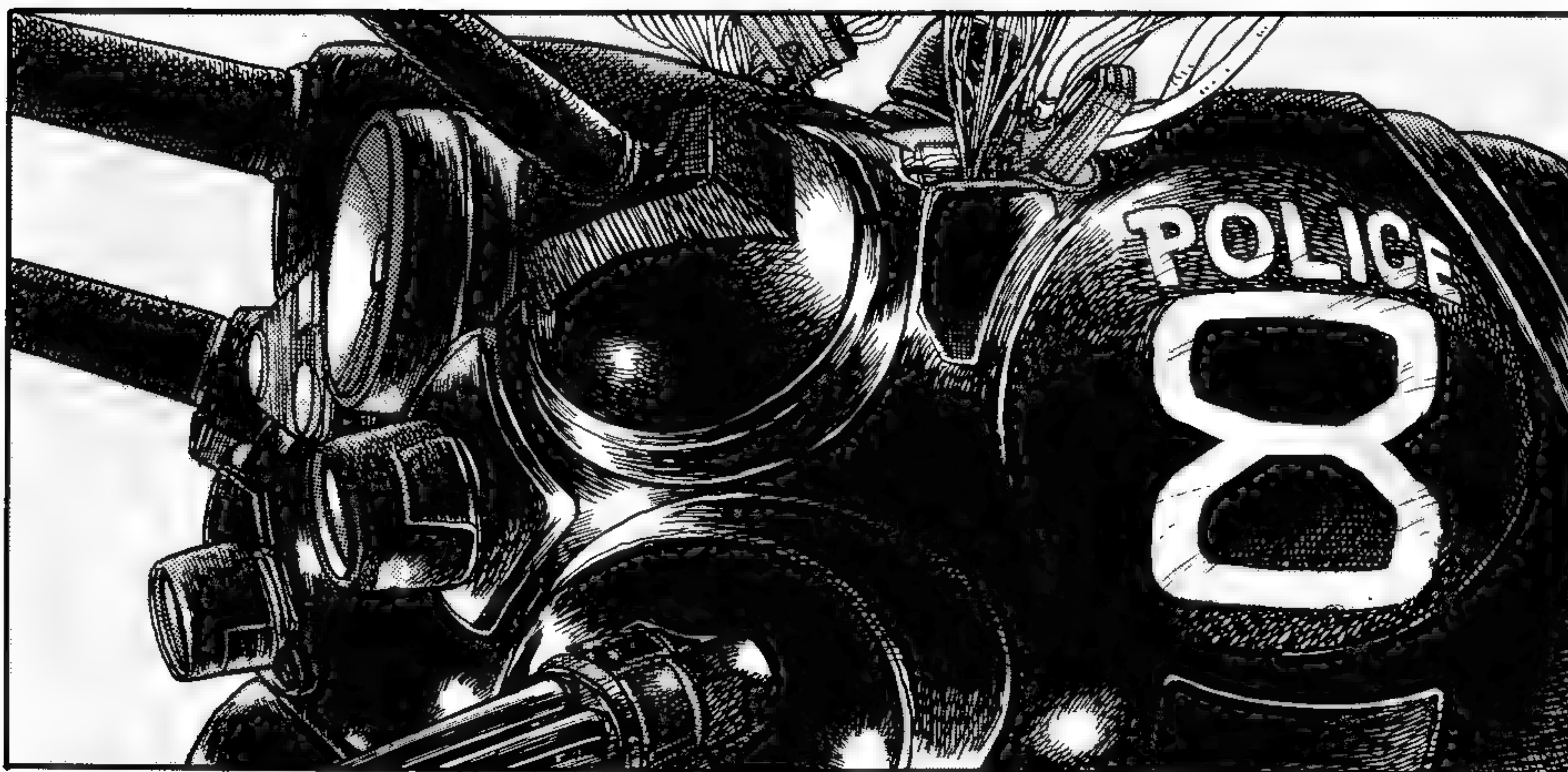






FX DODODODODODODO

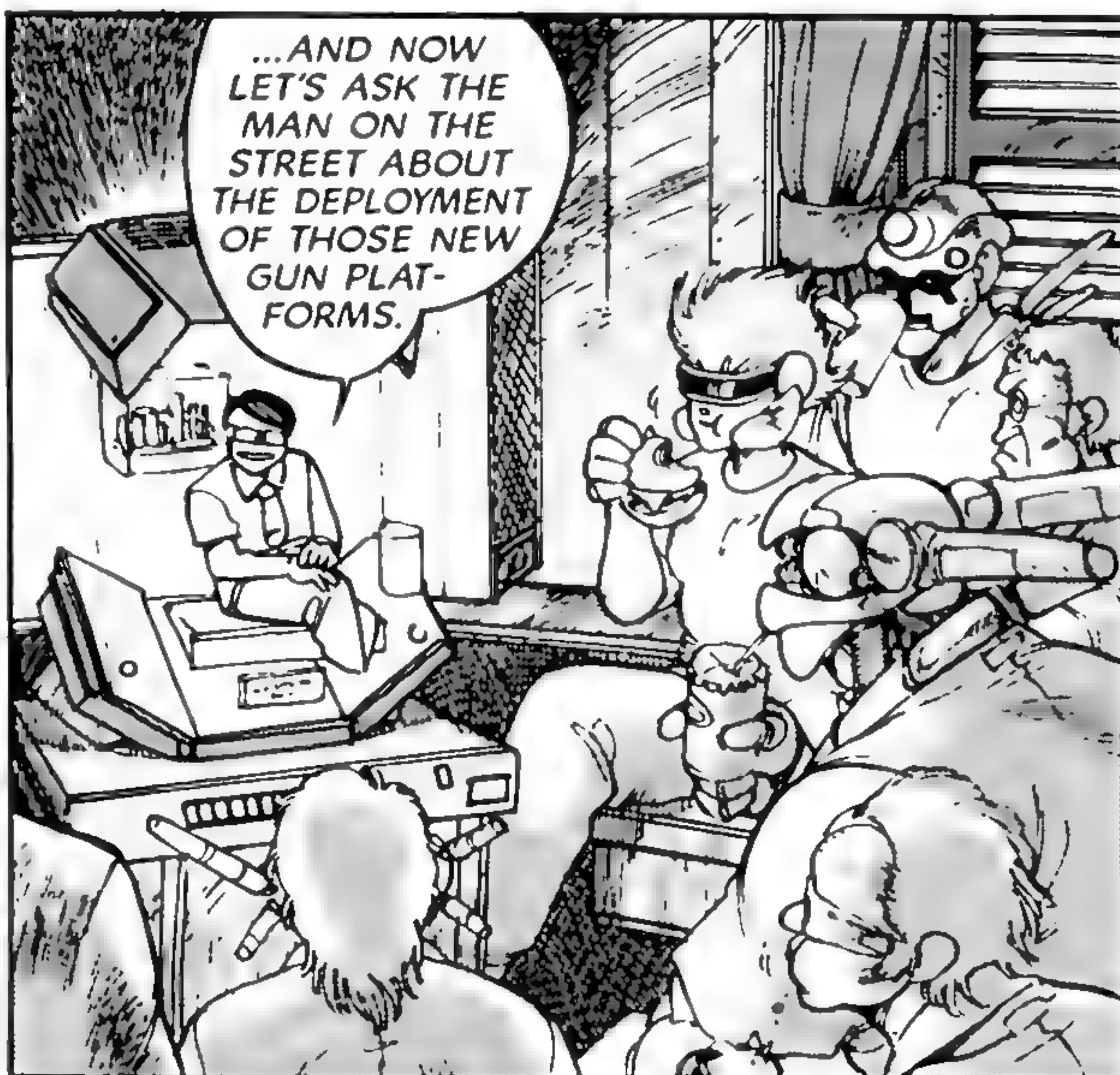
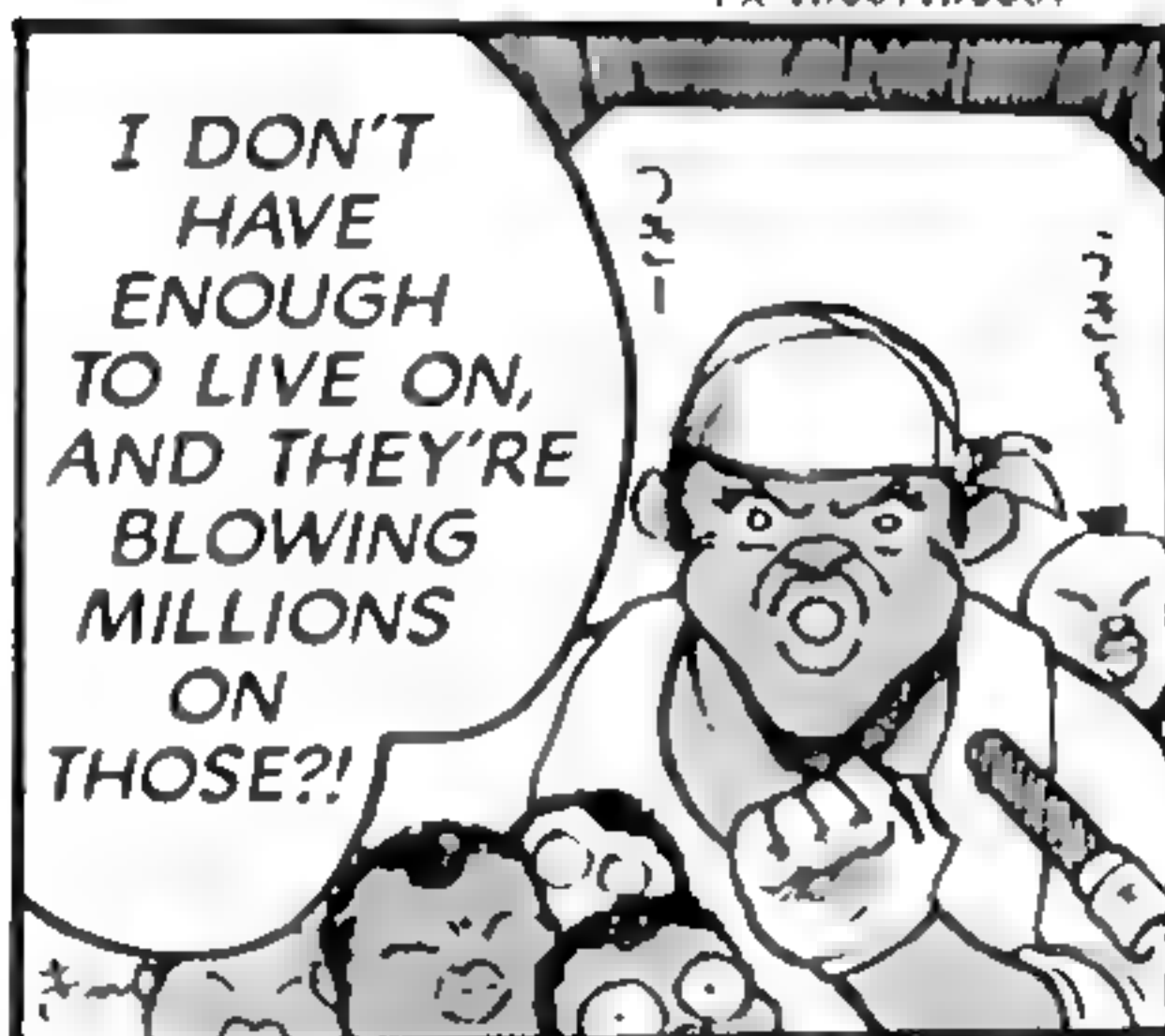




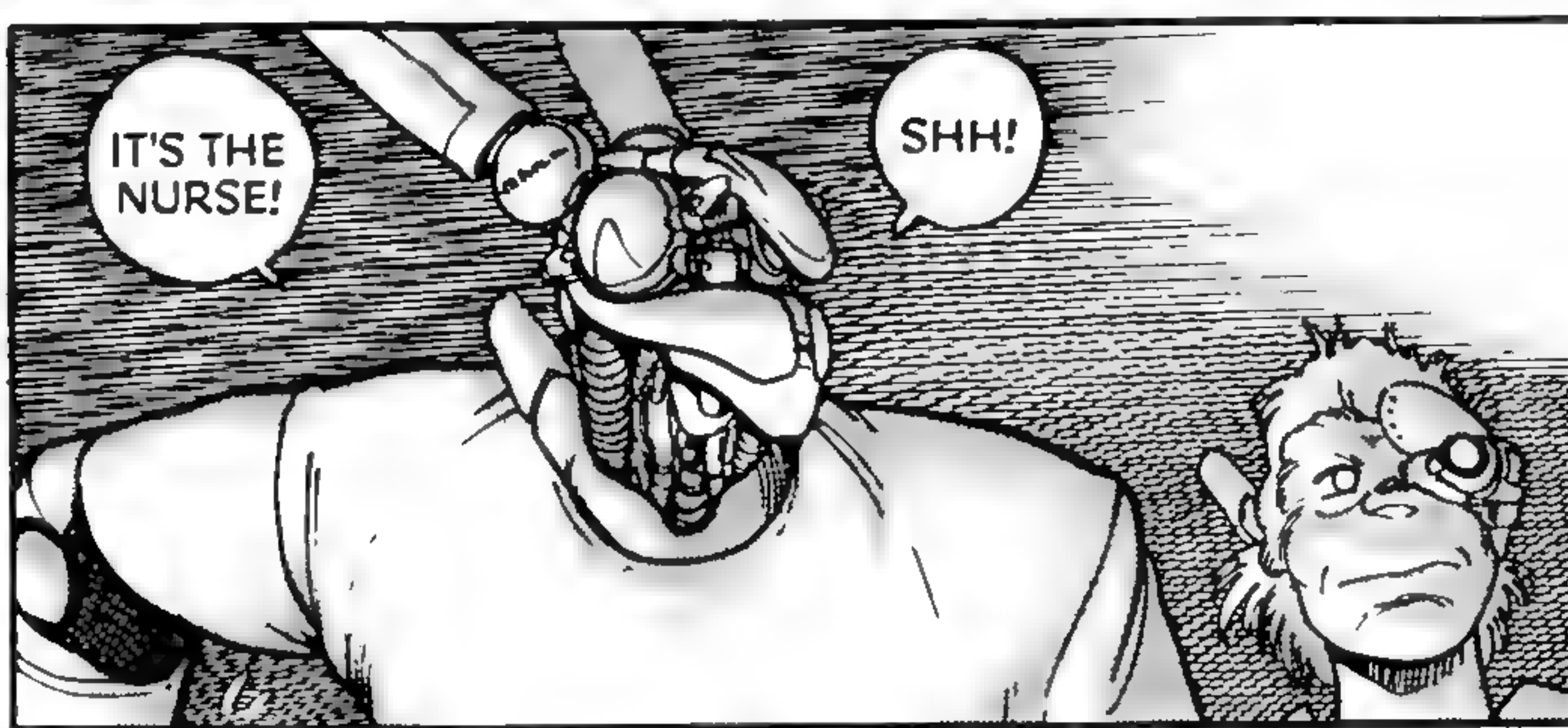
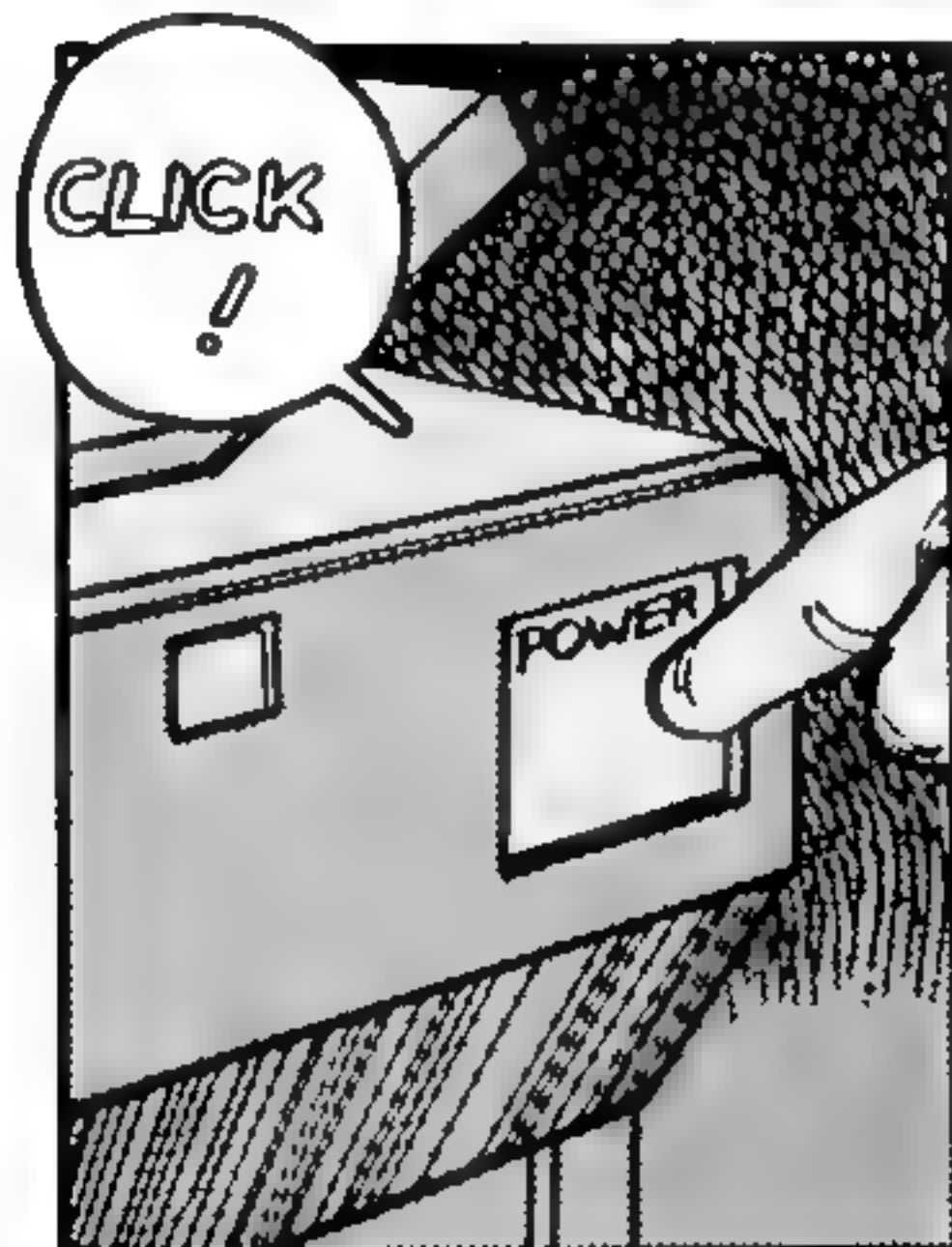
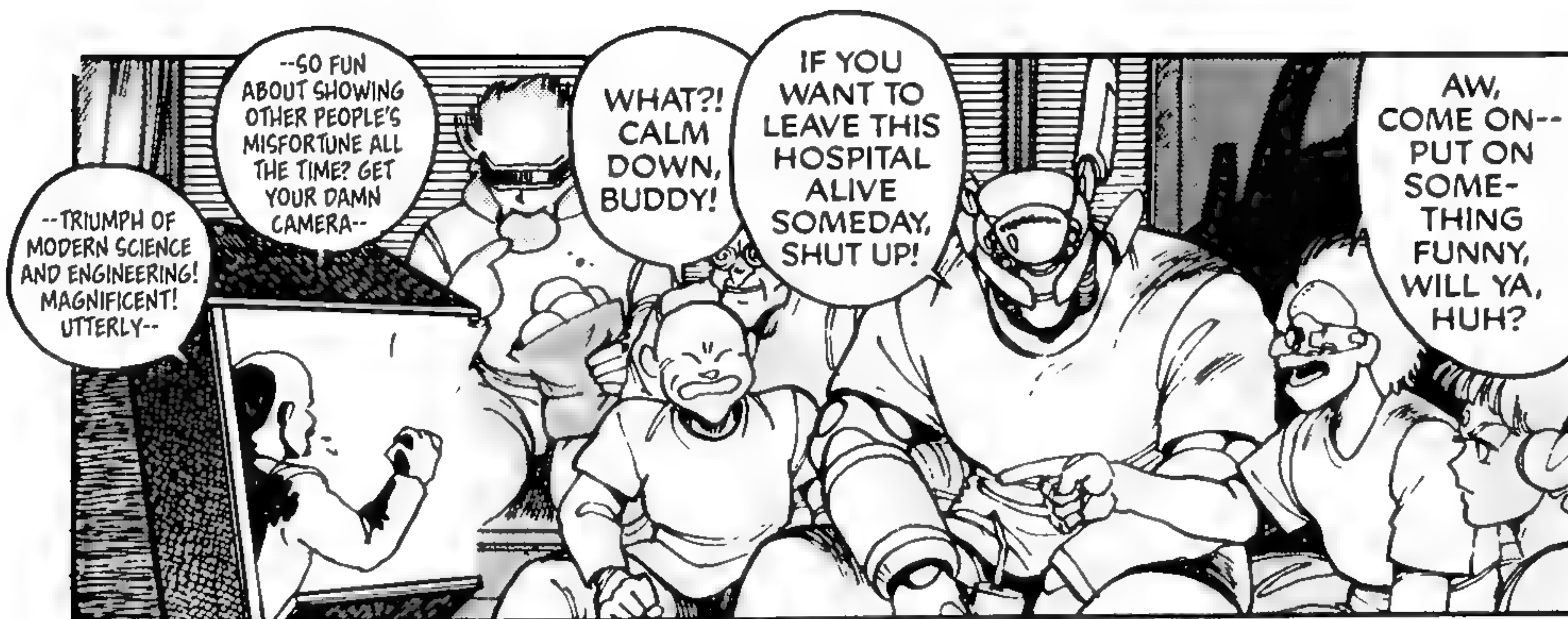




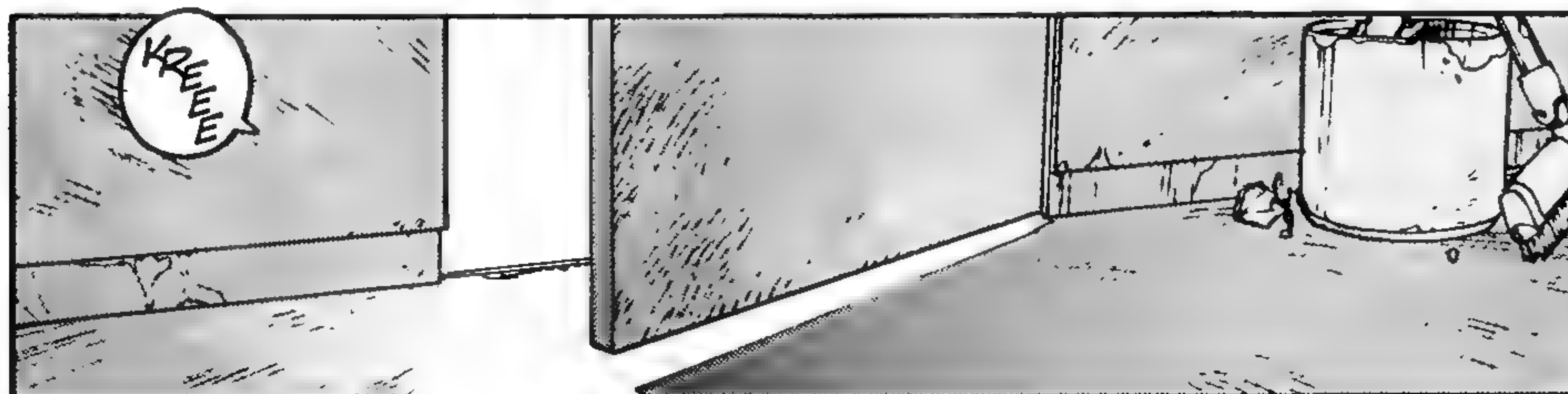
FX WAAH WAAAH



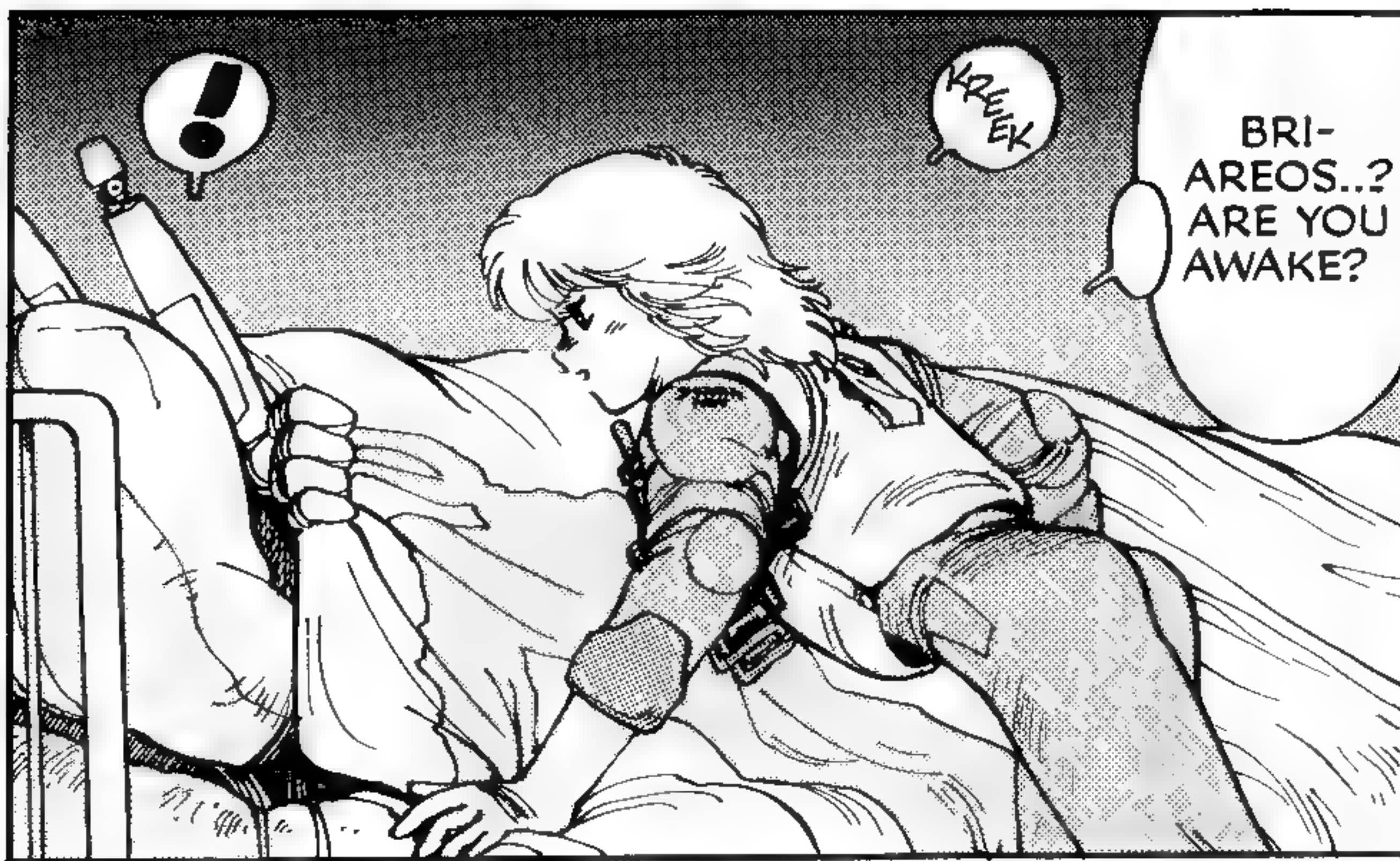




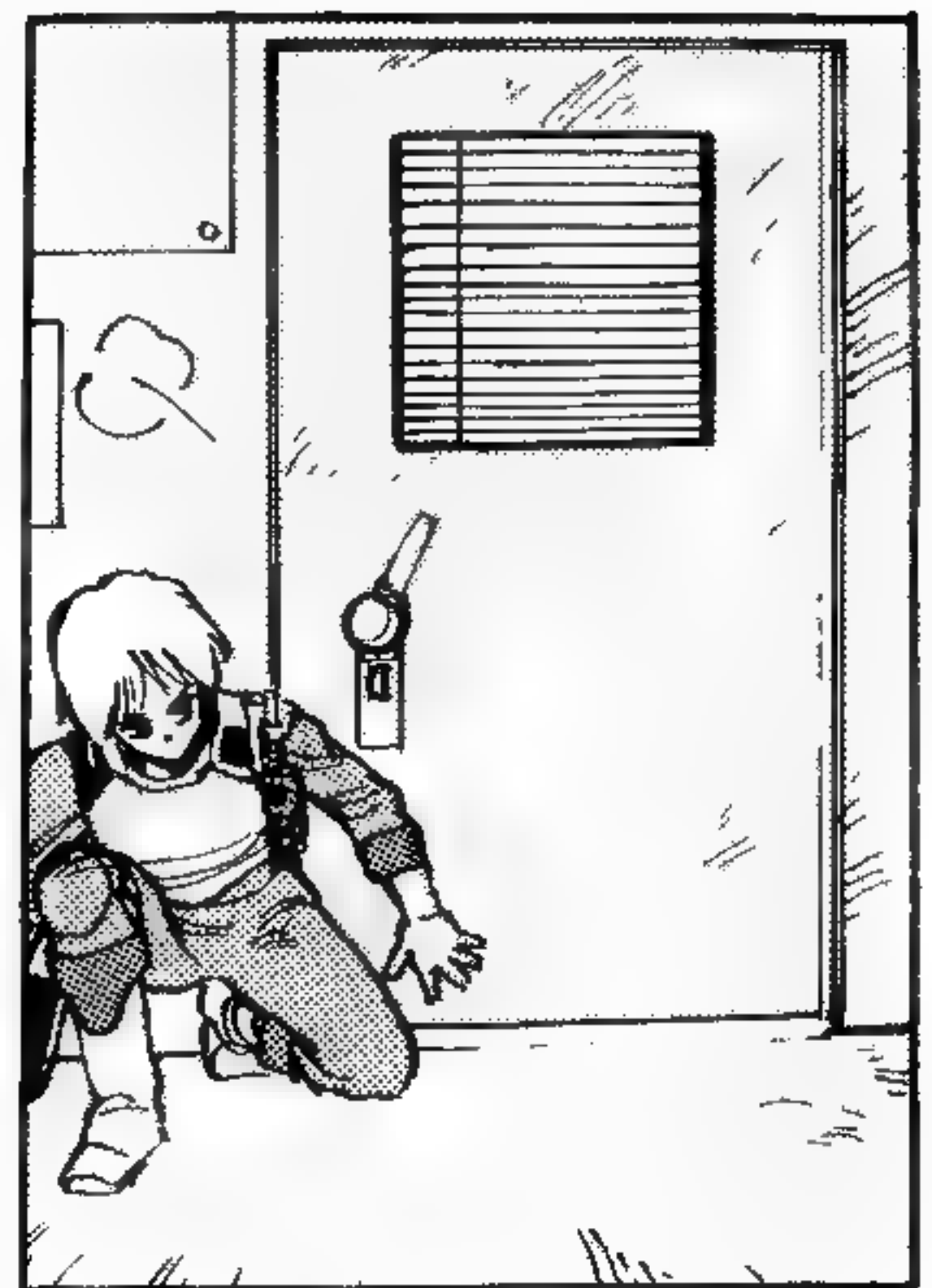
\*FX WHSST





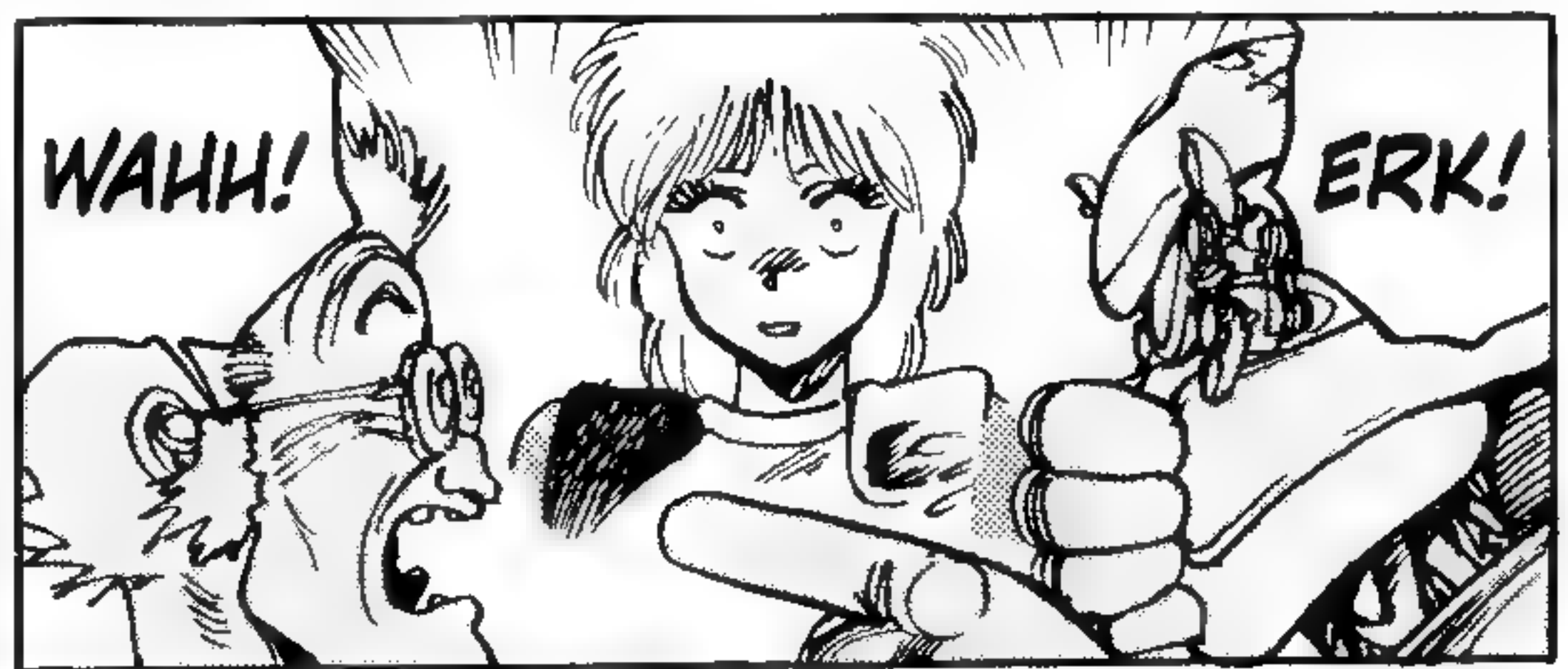
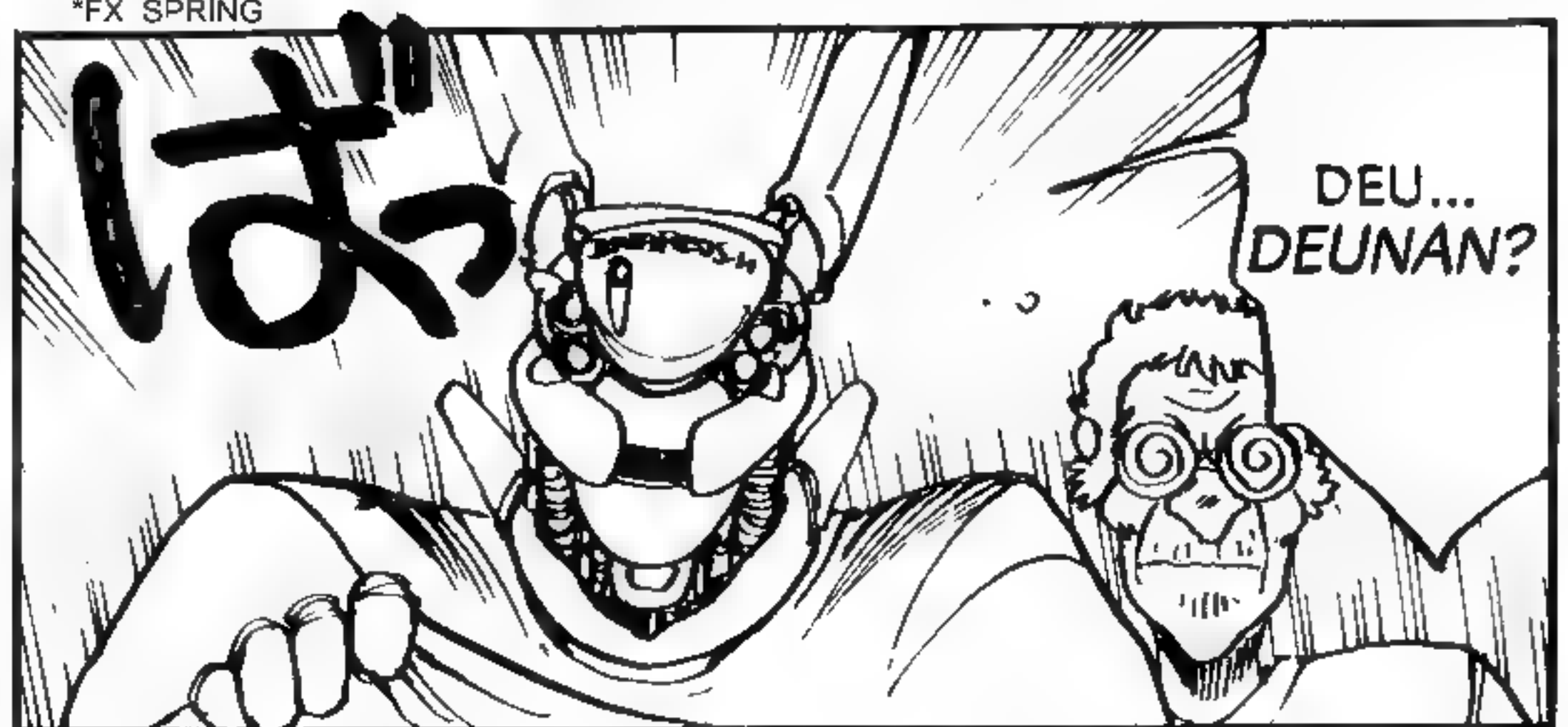


BRI-AREOS...? ARE YOU AWAKE?



\*FX RATTLE RATTLE

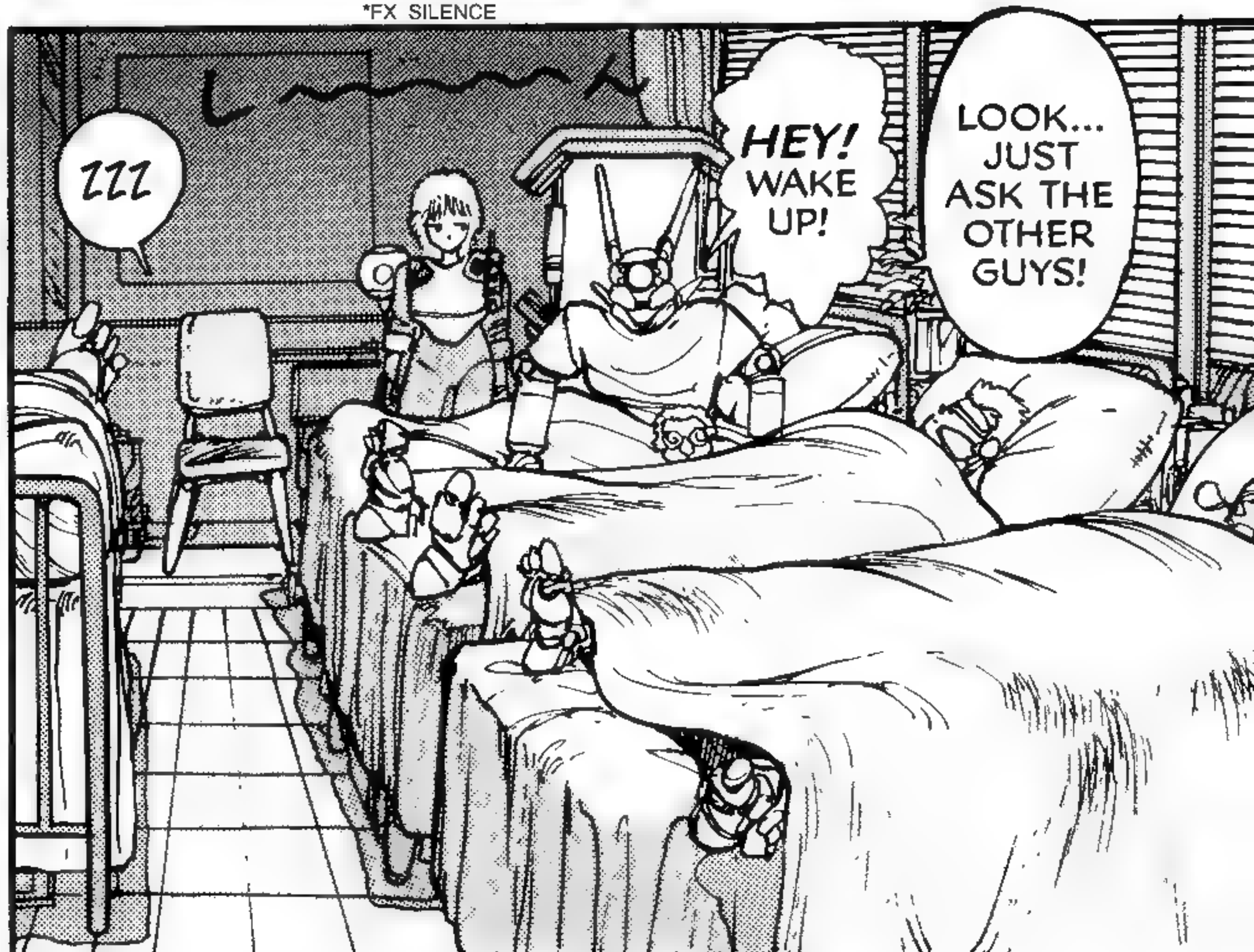
\*FX SPRING



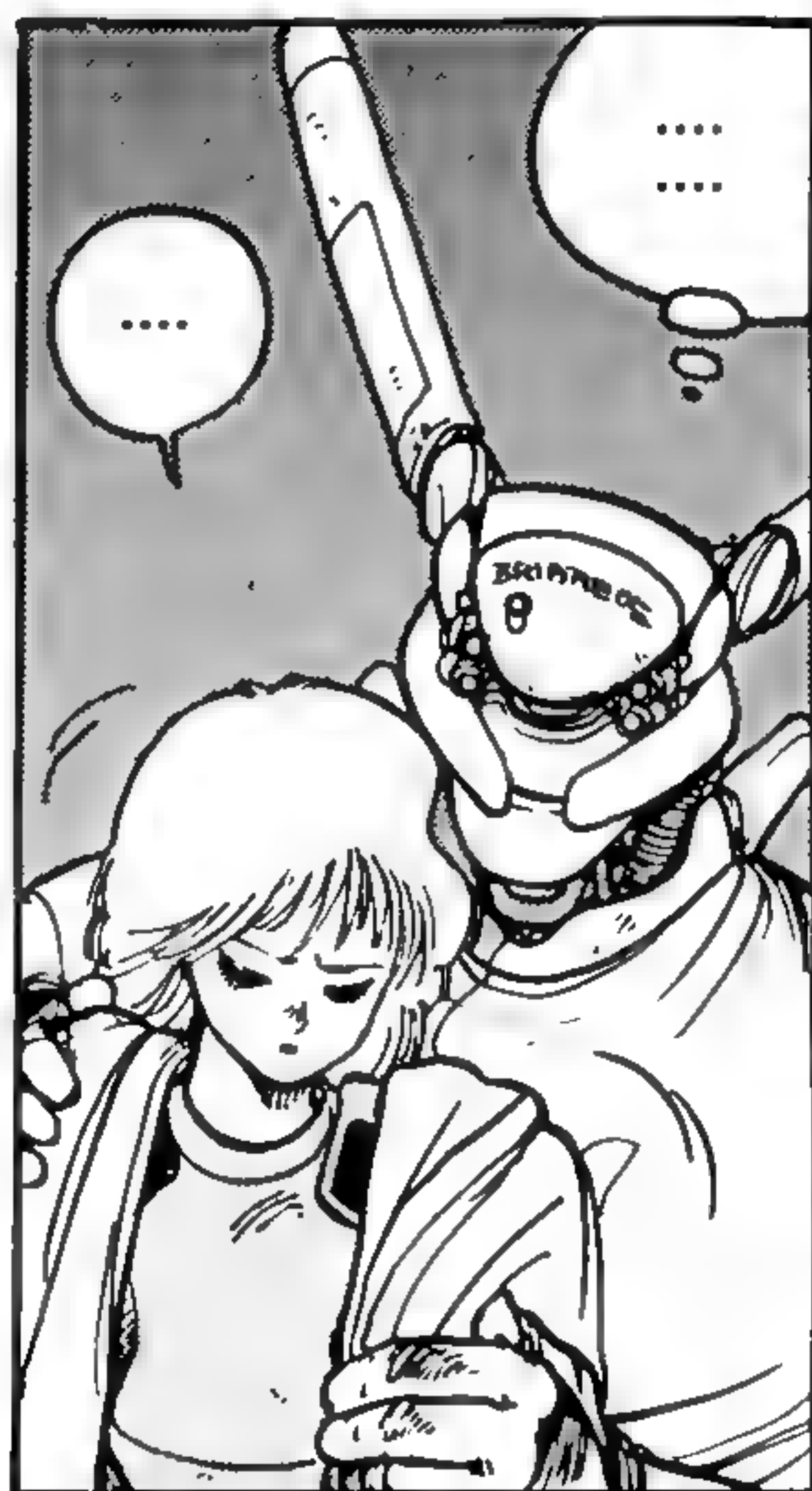
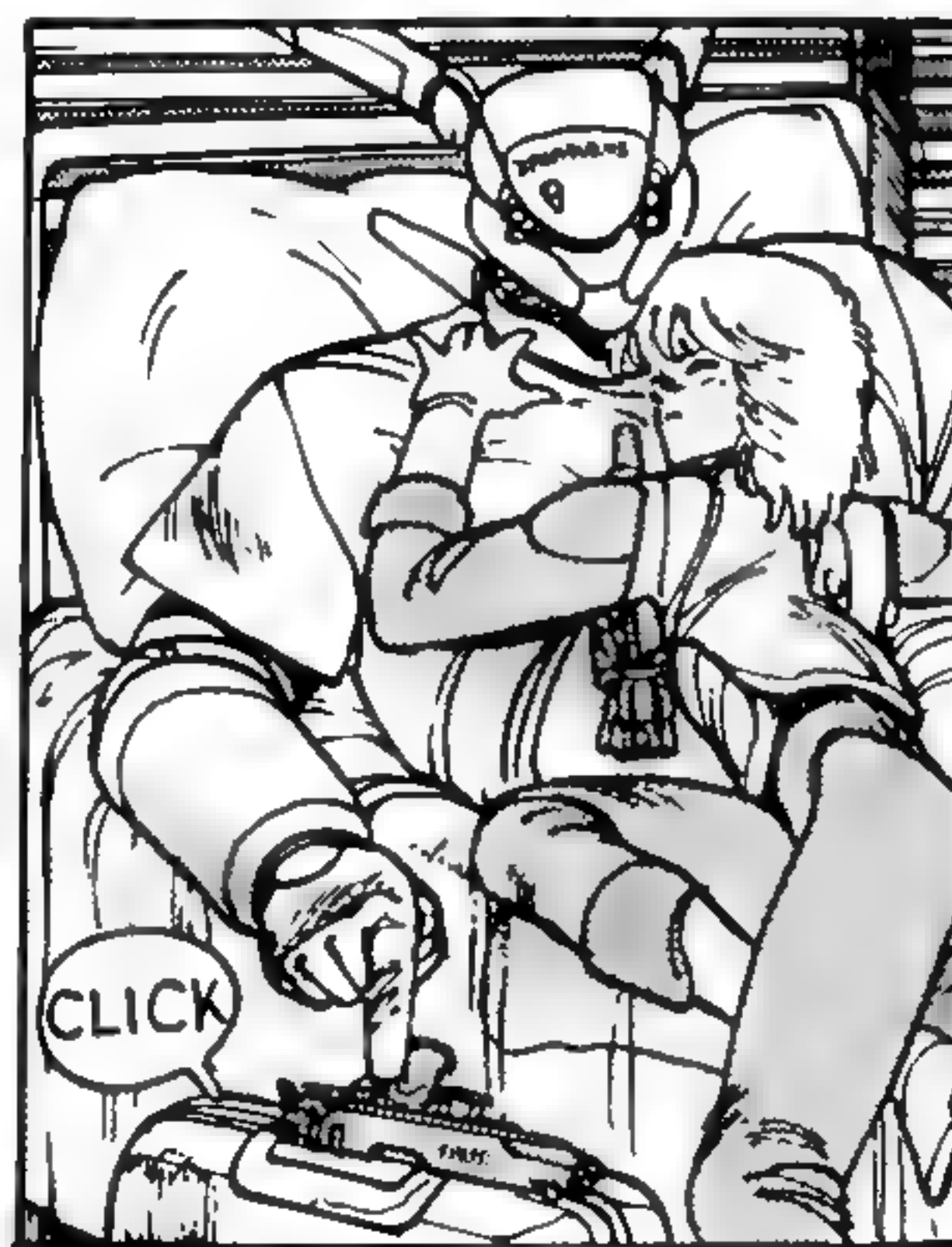
\*FX SILENCE



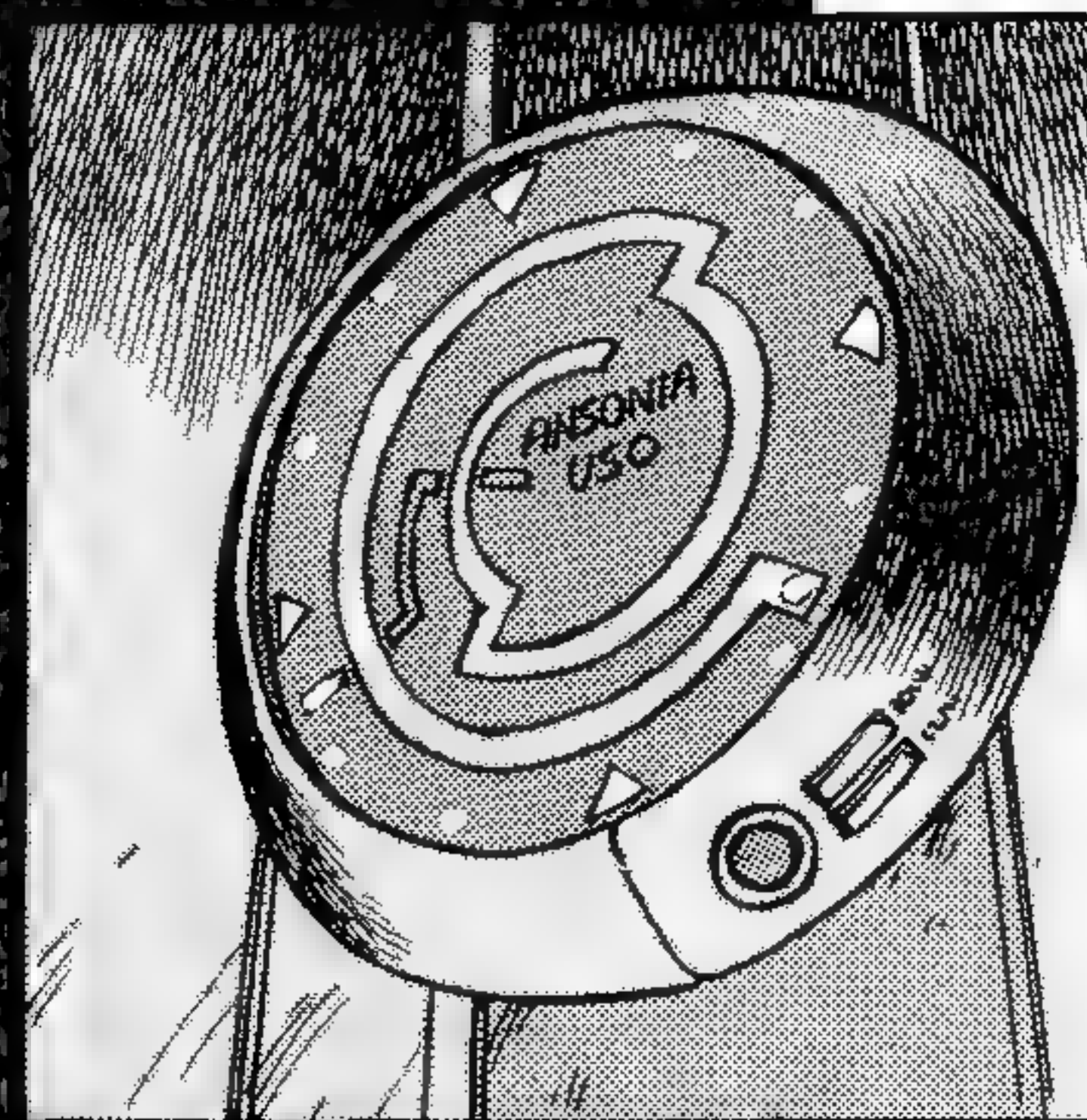
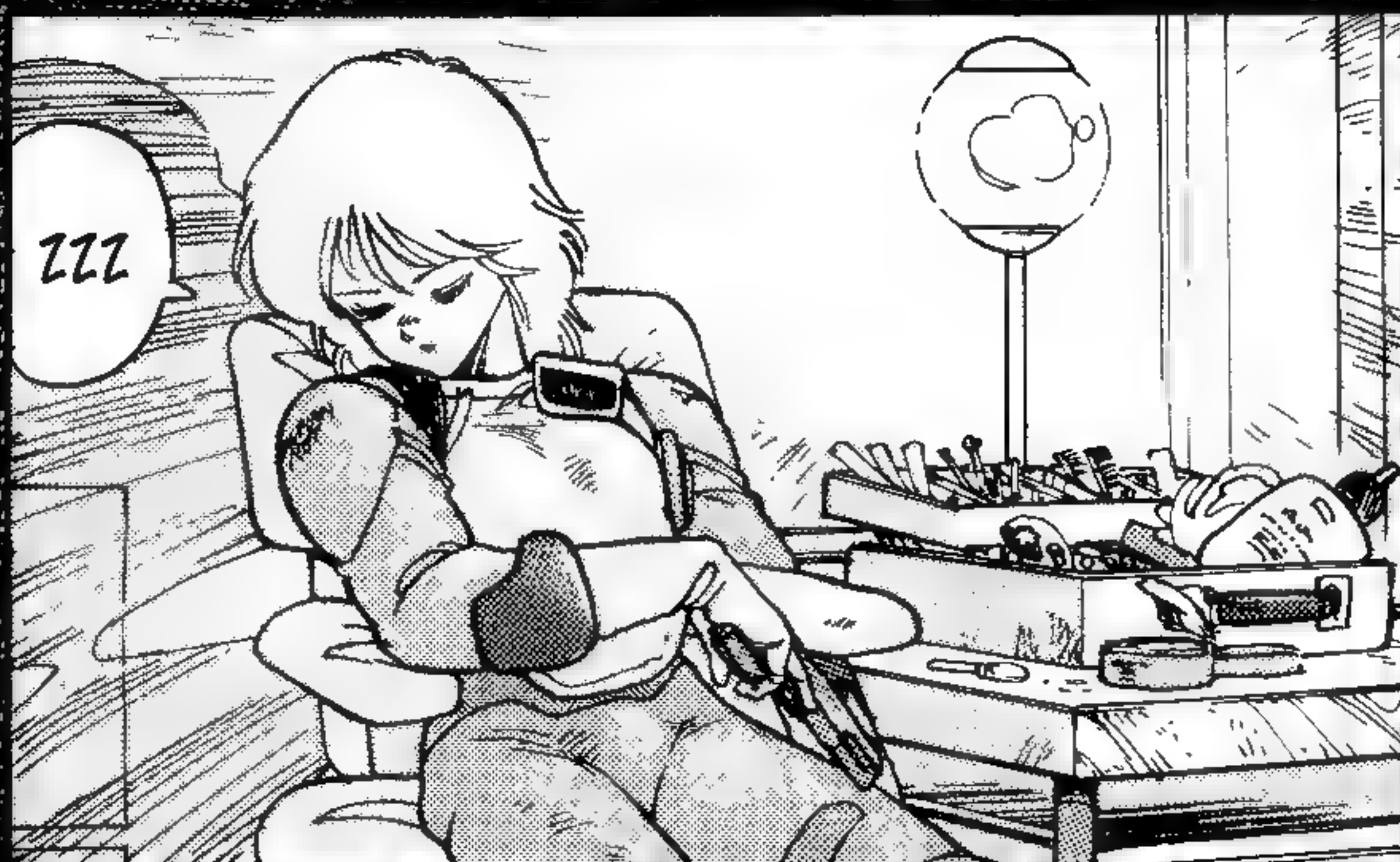
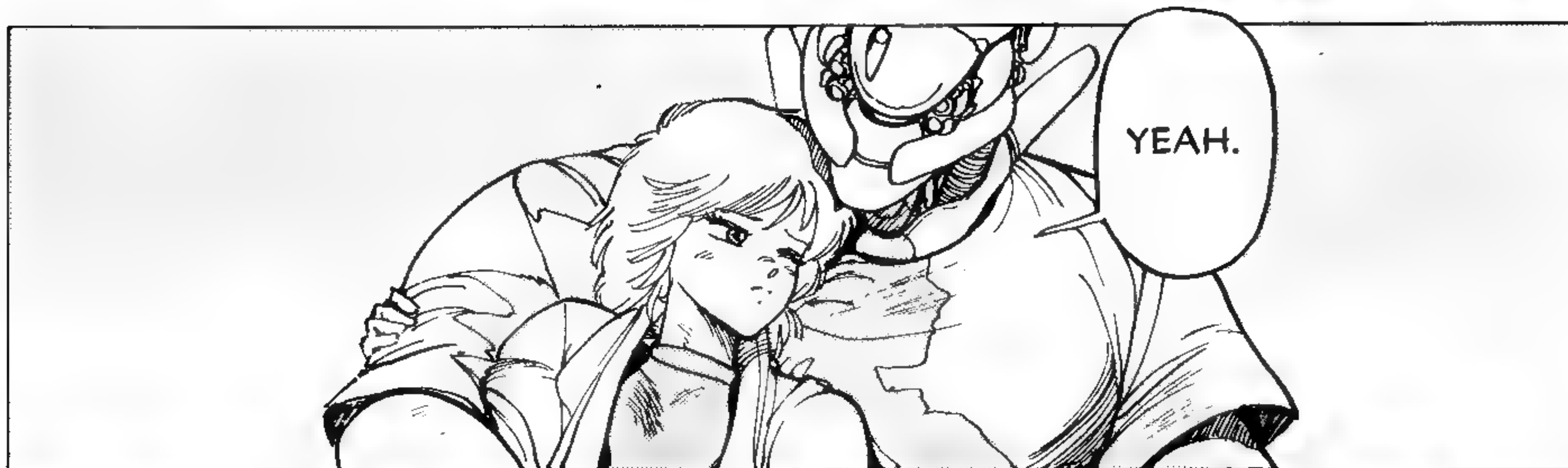
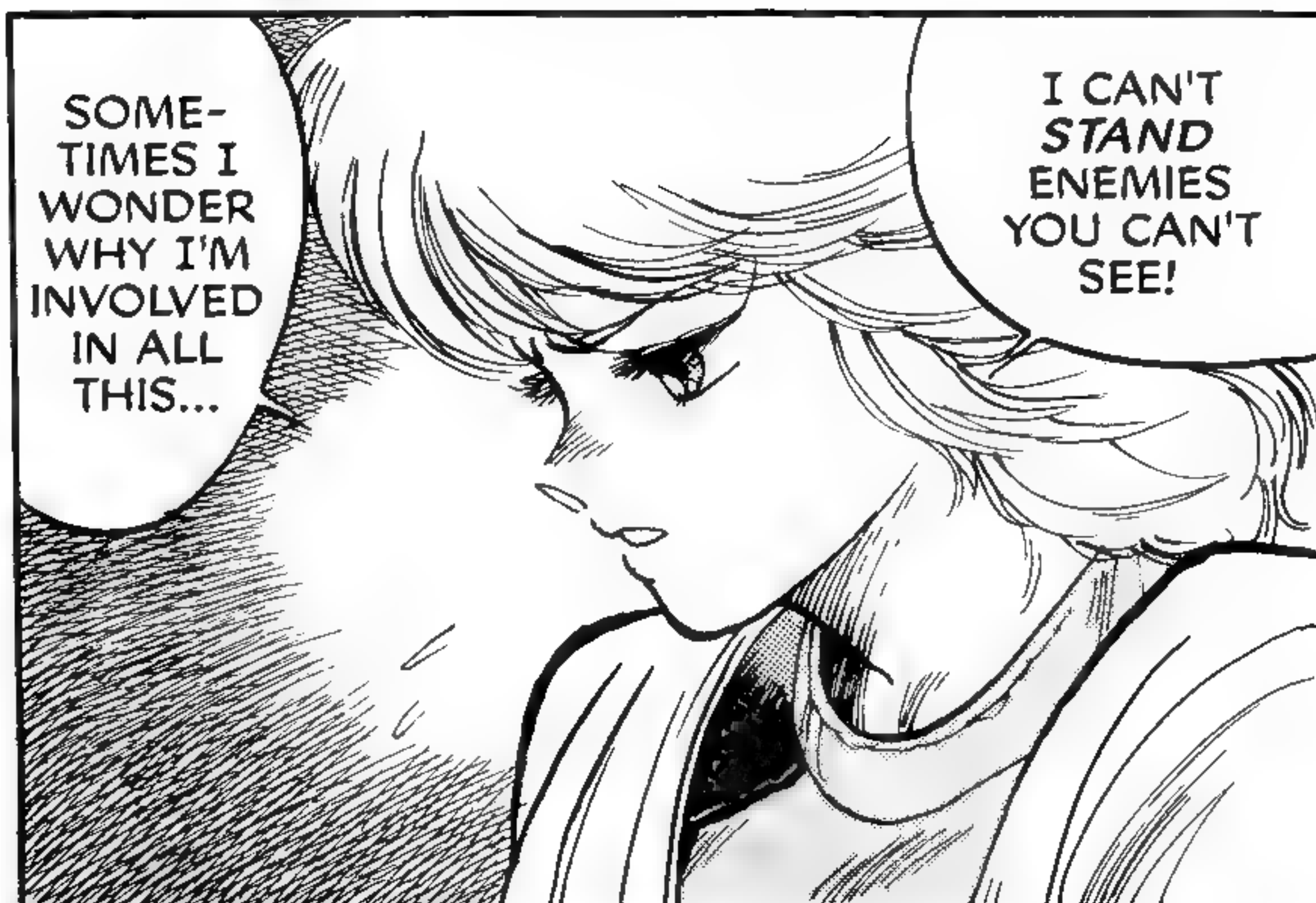
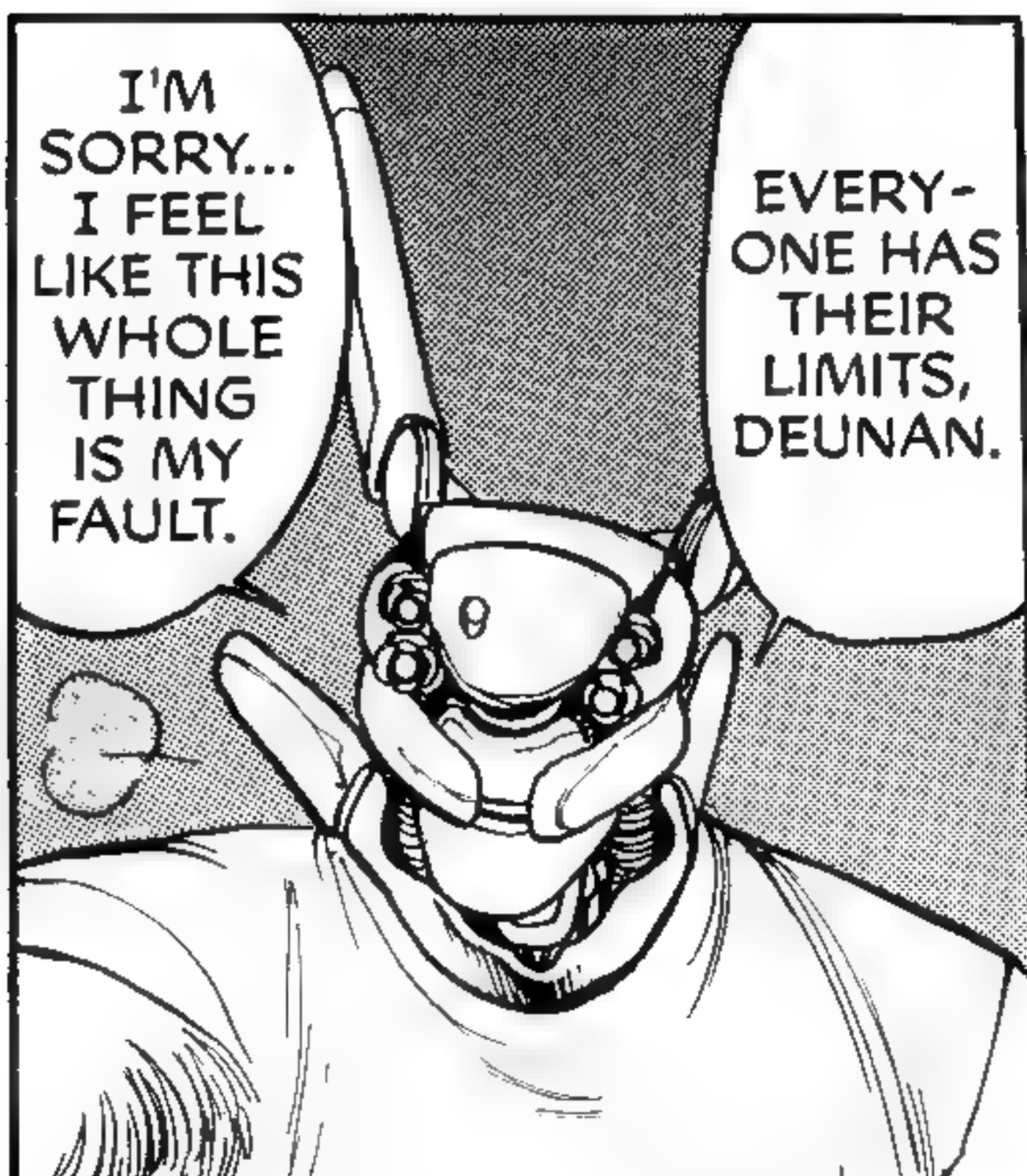
\*FX KREEK



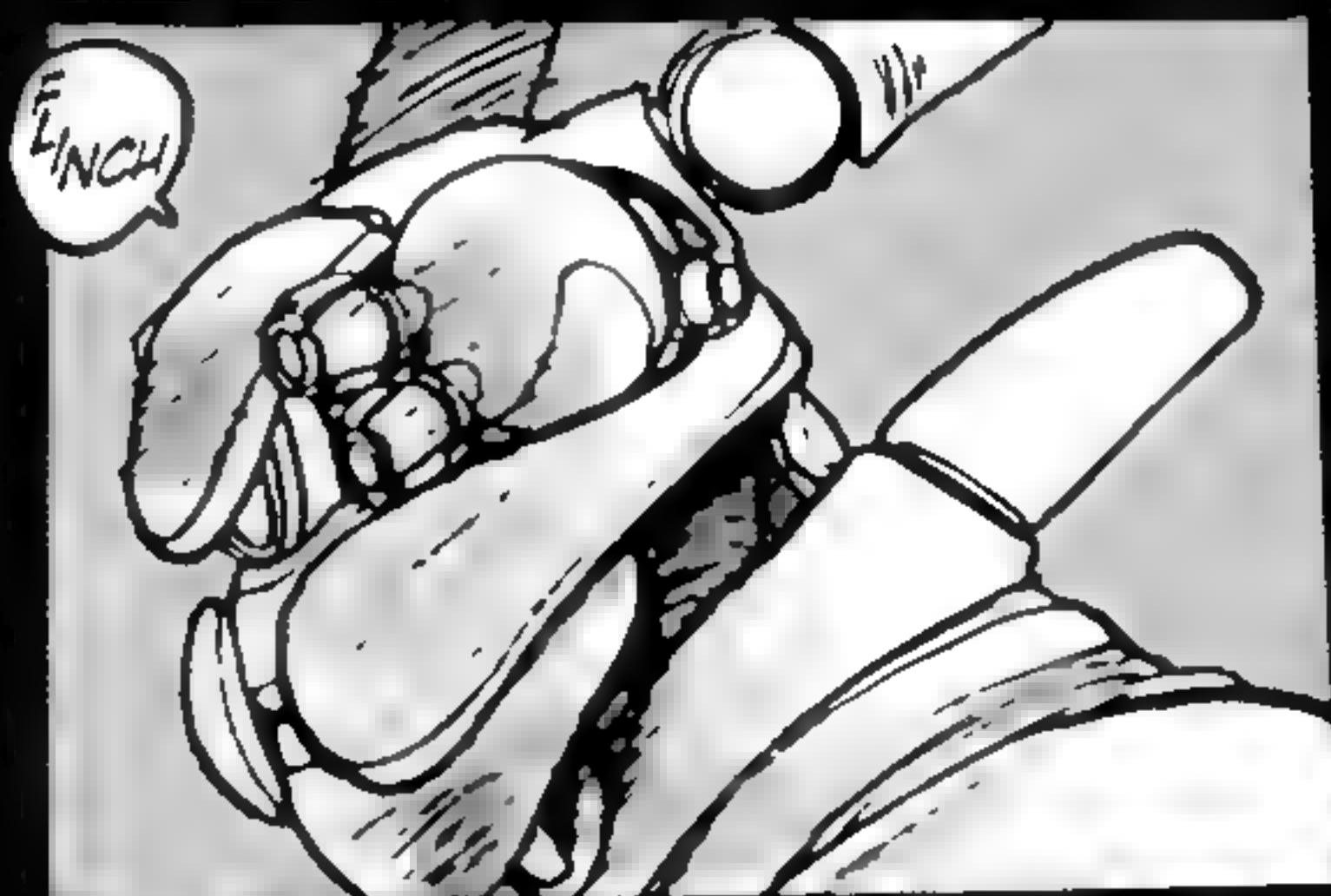




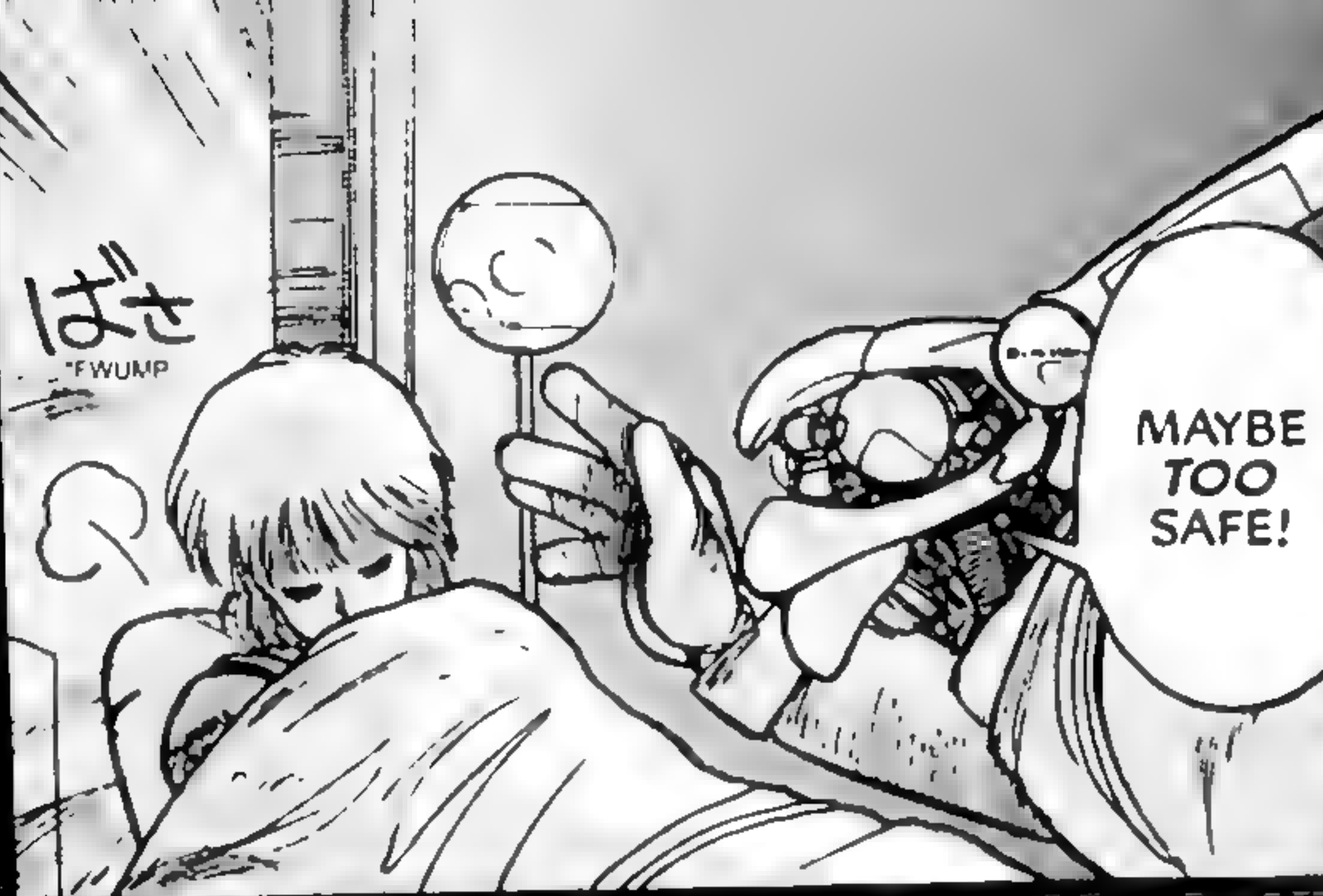








FWUMP



はさ

FWUMP

MAYBE  
TOO  
SAFE!

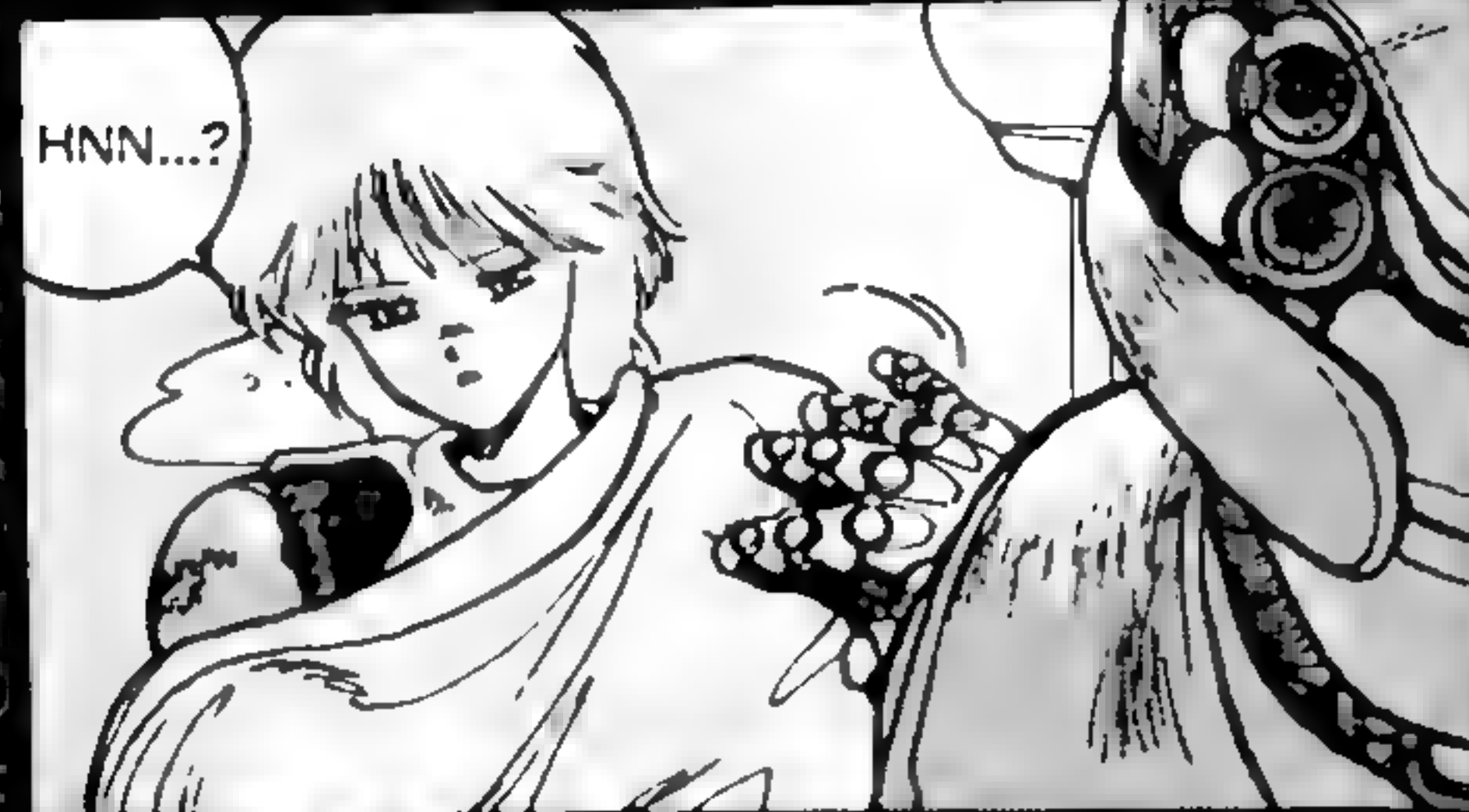


ZZZ

ZZZ



HA!



HNN...?

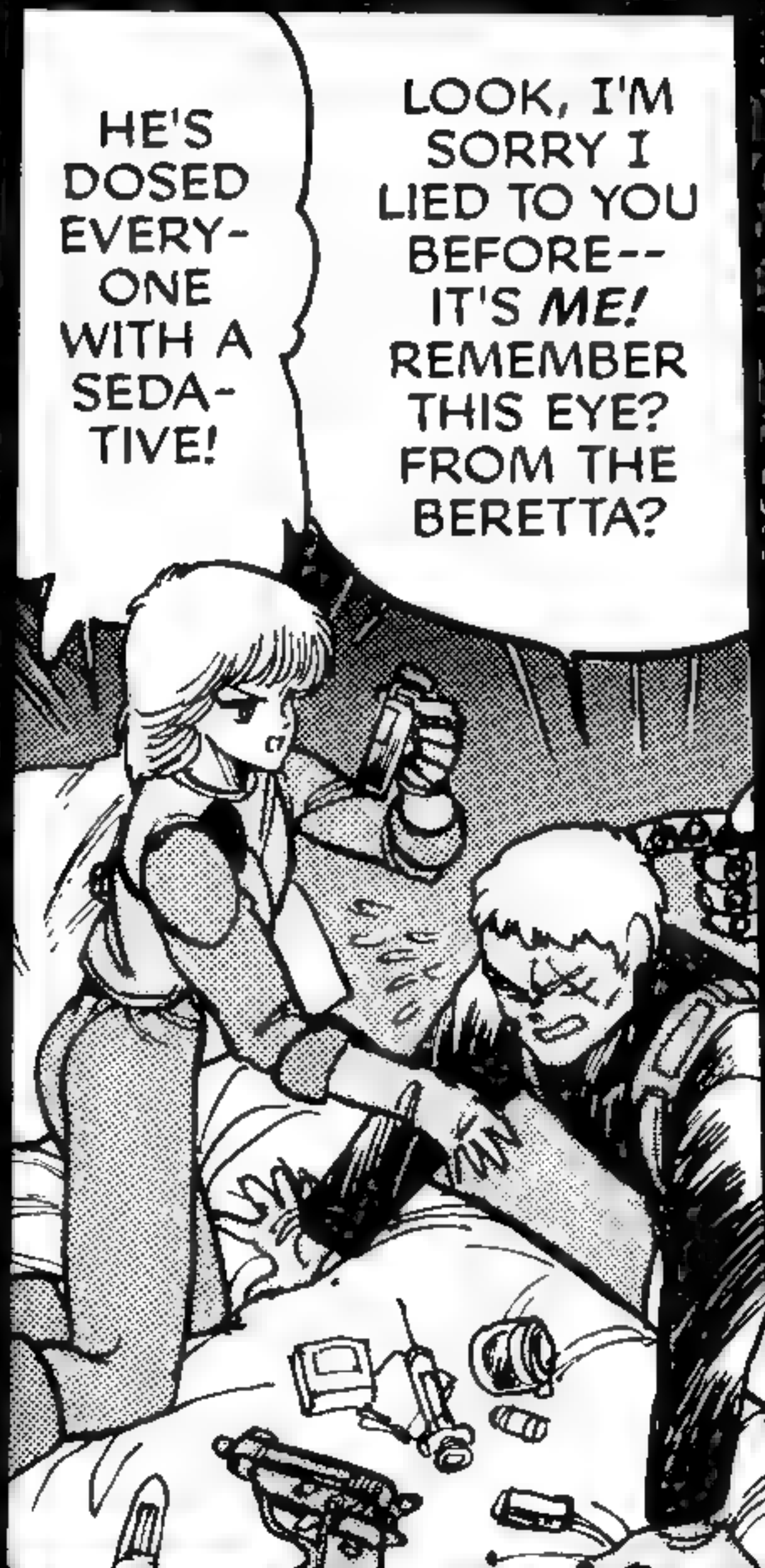


WHA--?

PSST!  
BRIAREOS!  
BRI--







HE'S  
DOSED  
EVERY-  
ONE  
WITH A  
SEDA-  
TIVE!

LOOK, I'M  
SORRY I  
LIED TO YOU  
BEFORE--  
IT'S **ME!**  
REMEMBER  
THIS EYE?  
FROM THE  
BERETTA?



HANDS  
ON THE  
BED,  
PAL!



WHY  
**HELLO,**  
THERE...

?!



THAT  
EYE  
MEANS  
**NOTHING!**  
IN THIS CITY  
THEY CAN  
FAKE  
ANYTHING!

NO,  
W-WAIT!  
LISTEN  
TO ME!

WHY, I  
OUGHTA...

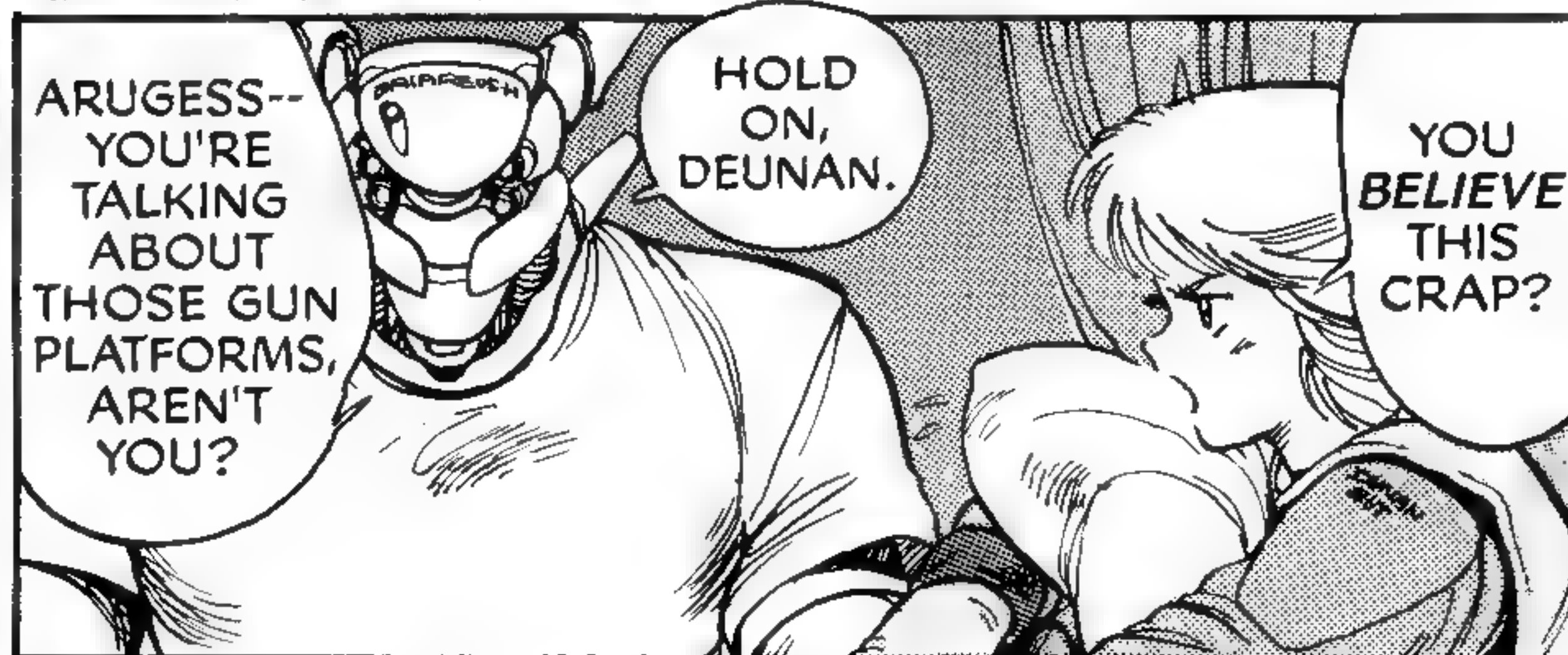
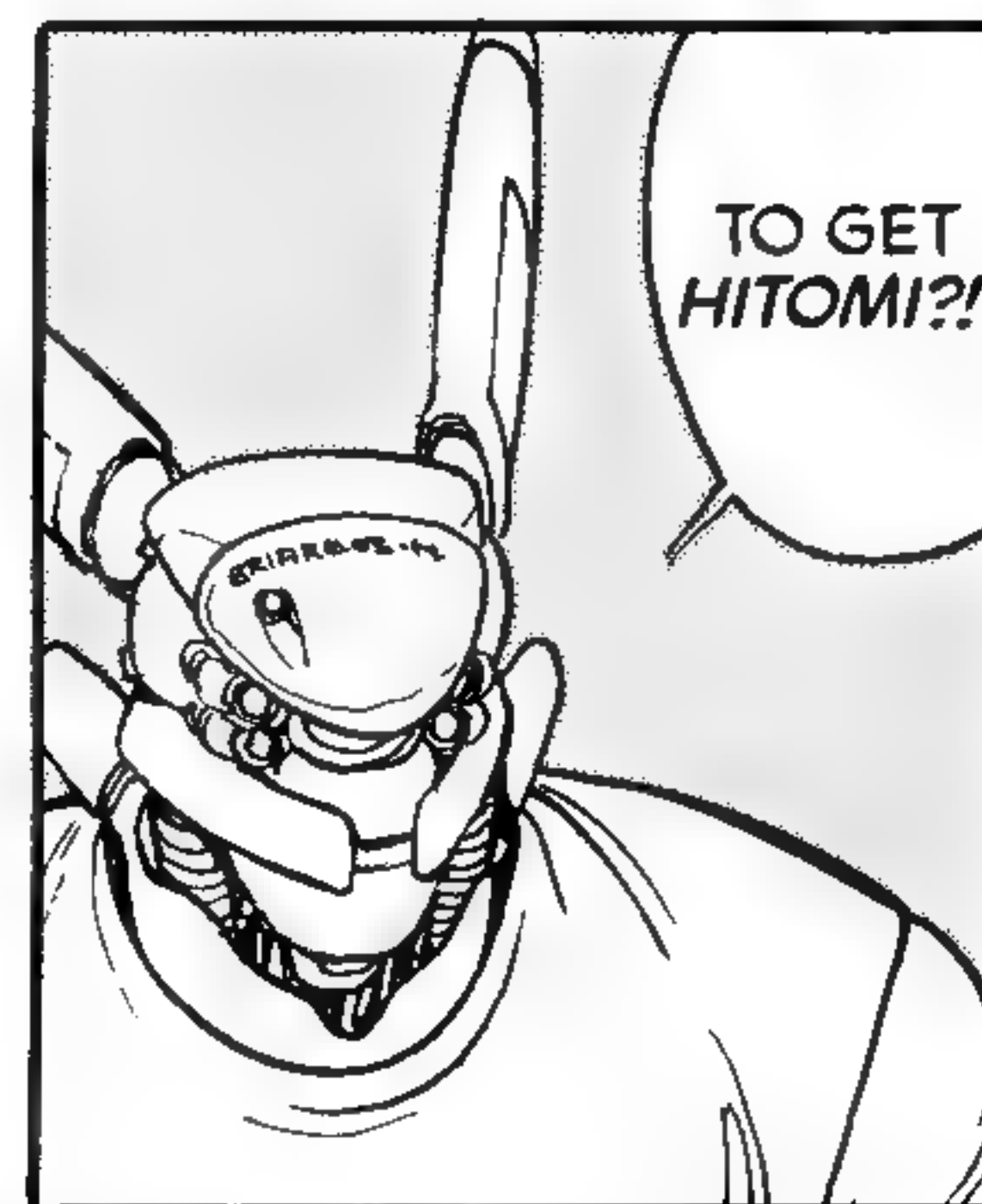
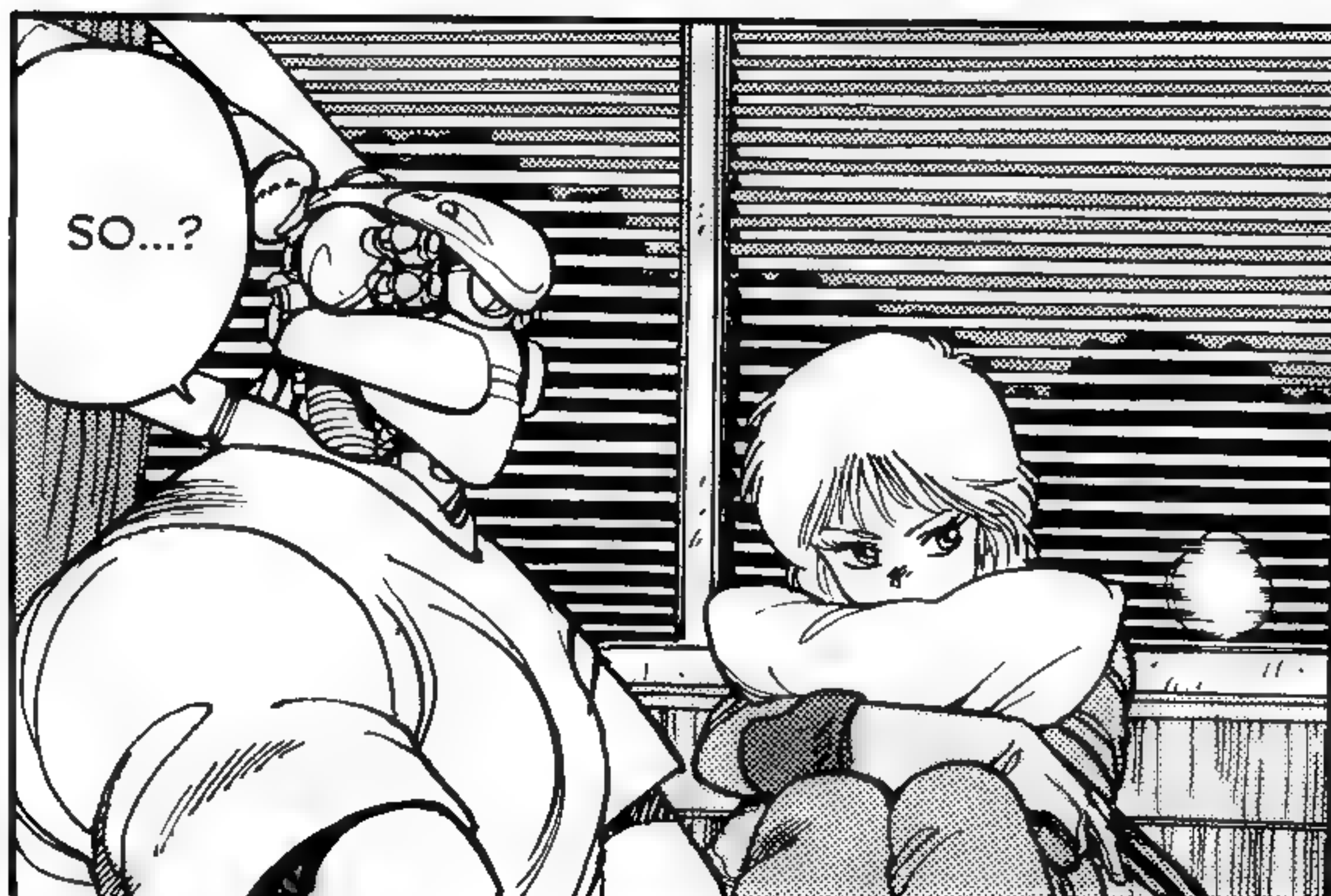
**HAH! I  
KNEW IT  
WAS YOU,**  
BY GOD!  
PRETENDING  
YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW ME,  
YOU BAD  
BOY...!



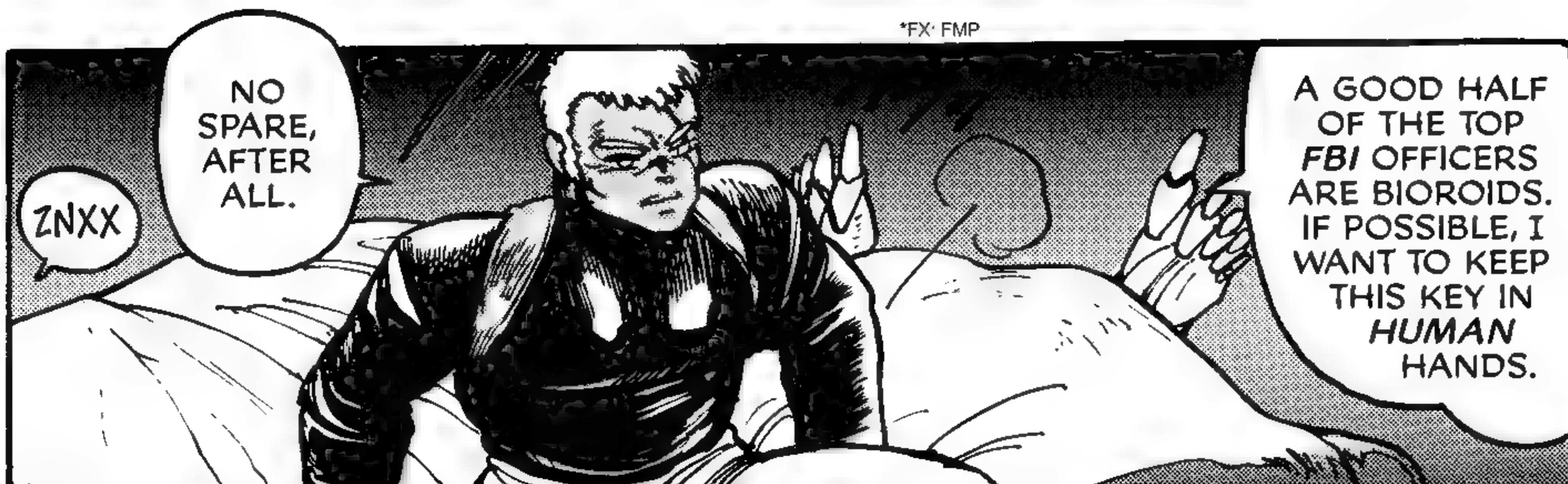
WE'RE A  
SAFETY VALVE...  
WE MONITOR  
EVERYONE, EVEN  
THE **JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT.**  
AND WHEN  
SOMETHING  
GOES HAYWIRE,  
WE FIX IT.

I'M NOT THE ONLY  
ONE... THE **FBI'S** FULL  
OF GUYS DISGUISED  
AS BIOROIDS. WE'RE A  
SPECIAL INFILTRATION  
UNIT, PLACED BY THE  
PARANOIDS ON THE  
OLD **PLANNING  
TEAM.**





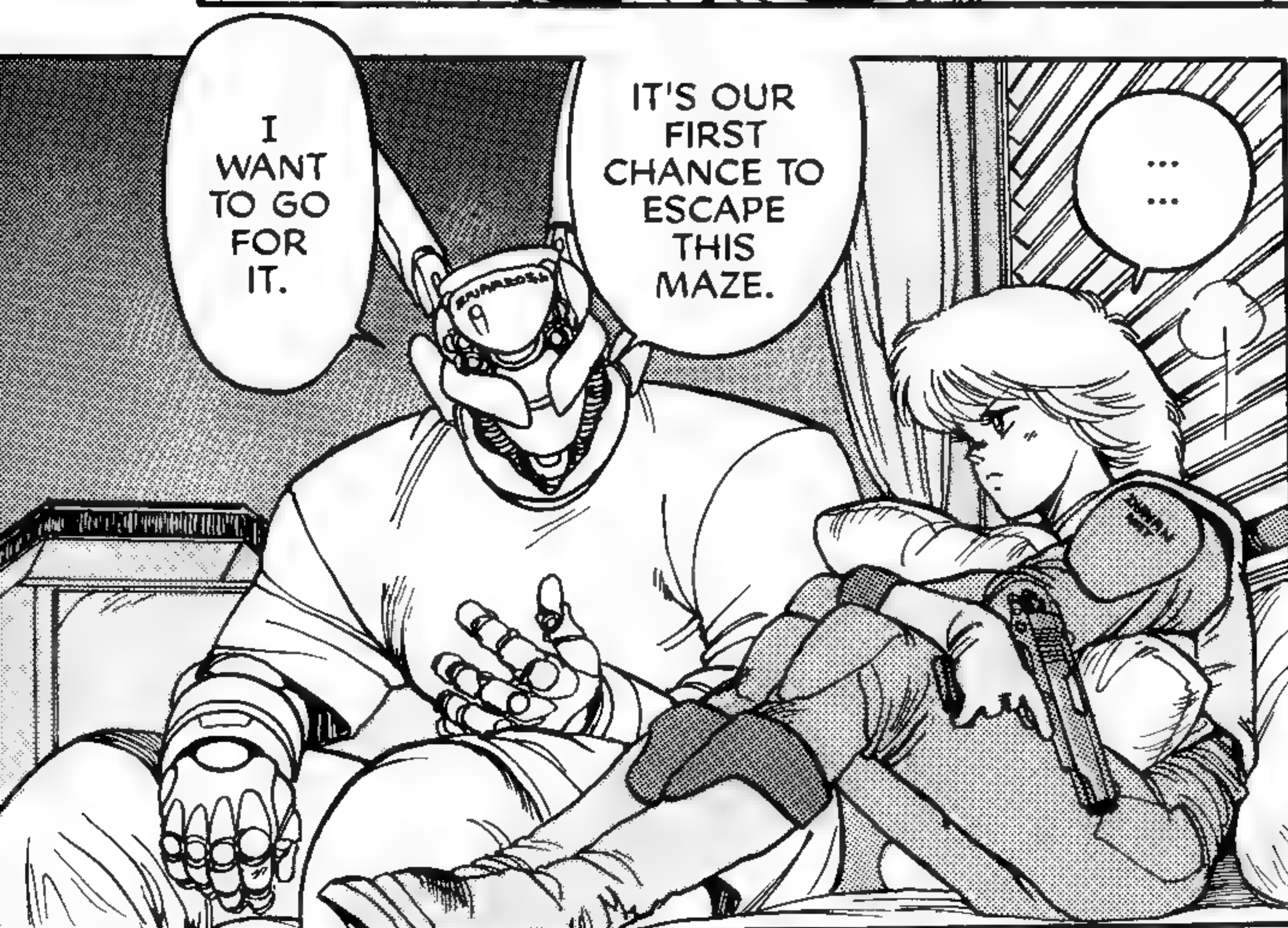




ZNXX

NO  
SPARE,  
AFTER  
ALL.

A GOOD HALF  
OF THE TOP  
FBI OFFICERS  
ARE BIOROIDS.  
IF POSSIBLE, I  
WANT TO KEEP  
THIS KEY IN  
HUMAN  
HANDS.



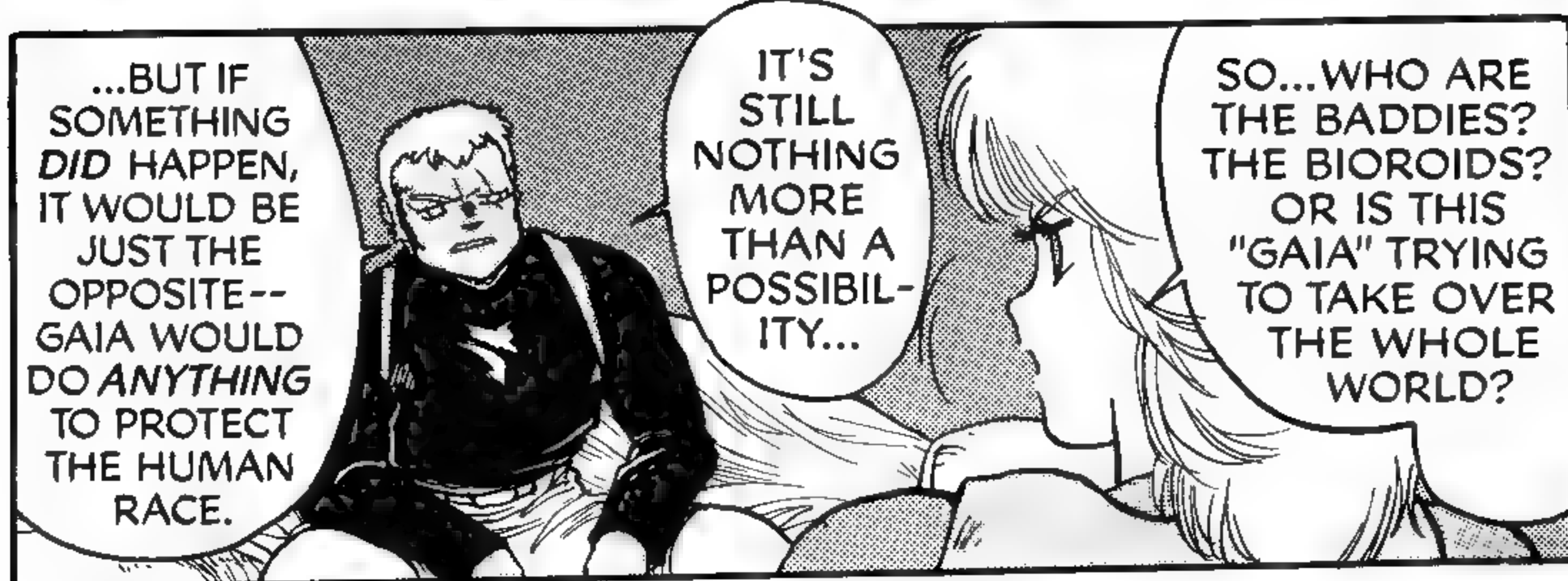
I  
WANT  
TO GO  
FOR  
IT.

IT'S OUR  
FIRST  
CHANCE TO  
ESCAPE  
THIS  
MAZE.

...  
...

WELL, WE'D  
LIKE  
BRIAREOS  
HERE ON  
OUR SIDE,  
FOR ONE  
THING.

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU GUYS  
DO IT  
YOUR-  
SELF?



...BUT IF  
SOMETHING  
DID HAPPEN,  
IT WOULD BE  
JUST THE  
OPPOSITE--  
GAIA WOULD  
DO ANYTHING  
TO PROTECT  
THE HUMAN  
RACE.

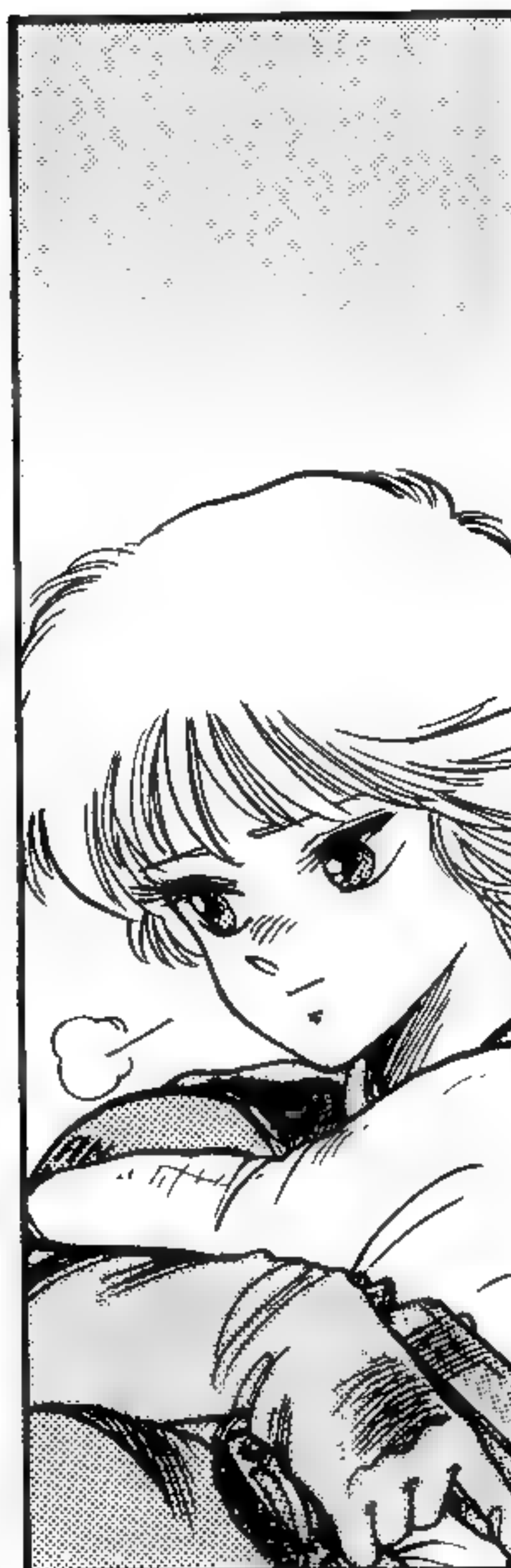
IT'S  
STILL  
NOTHING  
MORE  
THAN A  
POSSIBIL-  
ITY...

SO...WHO ARE  
THE BADDIES?  
THE BIOROIDS?  
OR IS THIS  
"GAIA" TRYING  
TO TAKE OVER  
THE WHOLE  
WORLD?

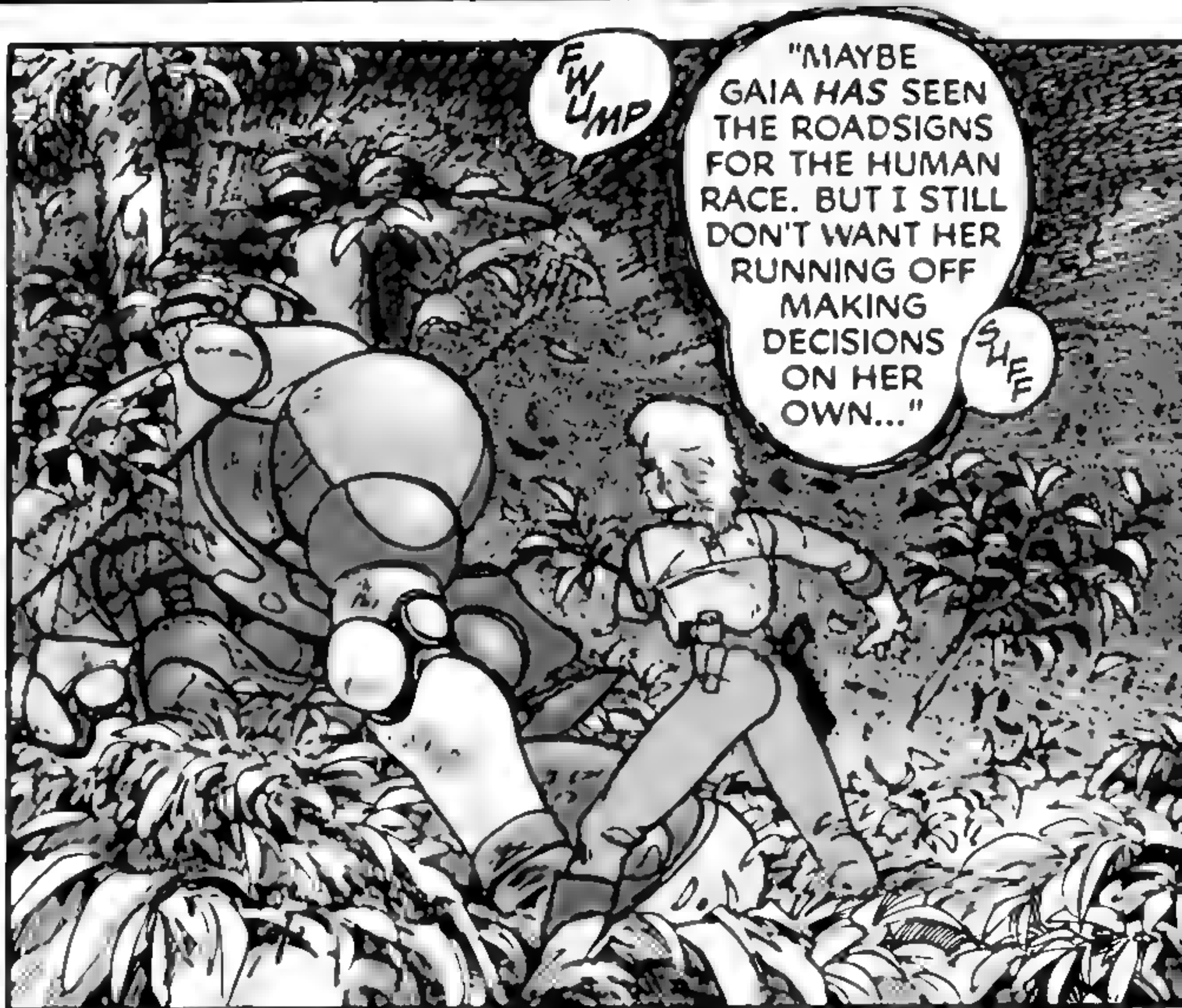


...OR  
CHANGE  
OUR VERY  
NATURE AND  
PRESERVE  
THIS PRESENT  
STERILE  
UTOPIA IN  
STASIS  
FOREVER.

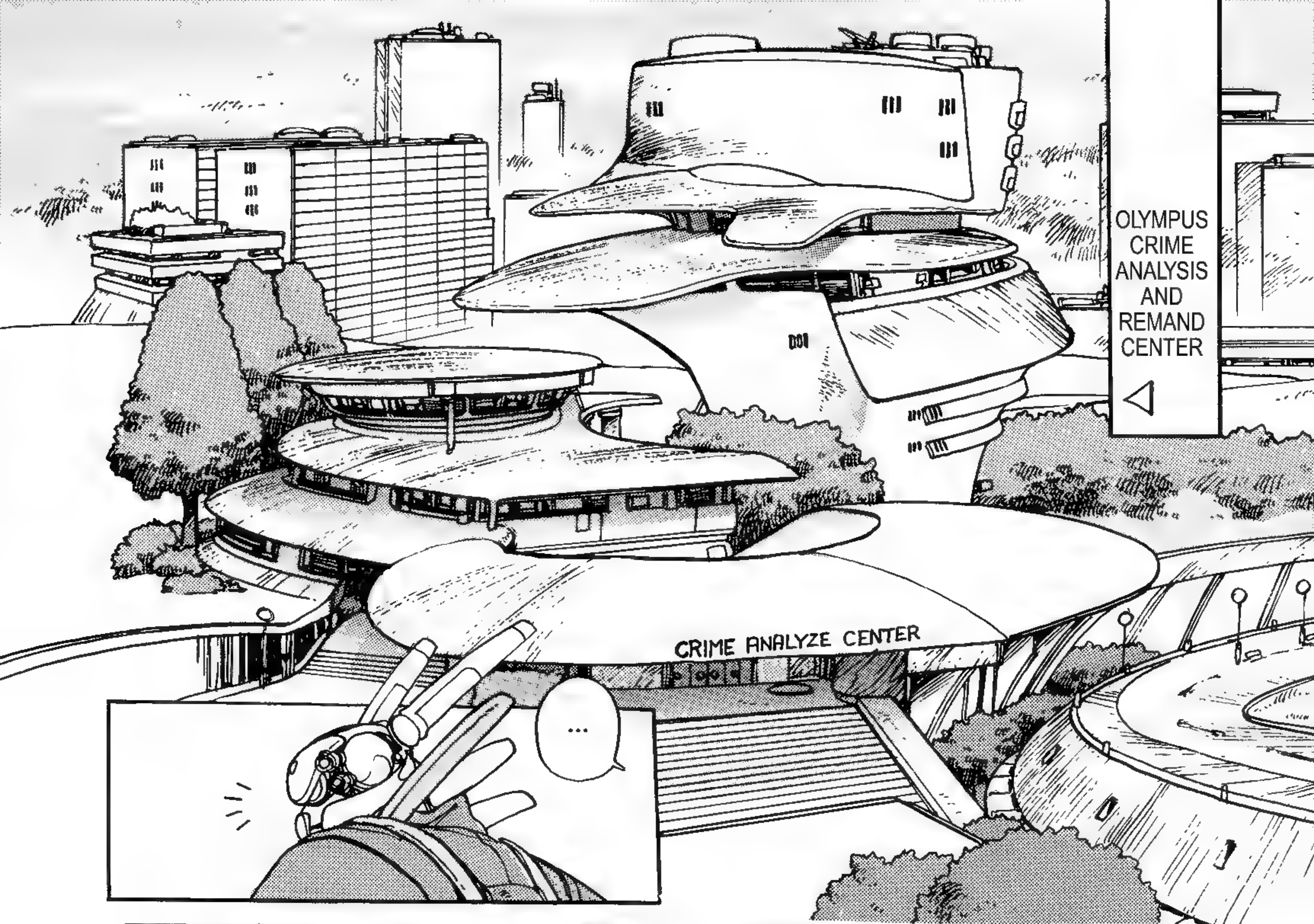
SEEMS OUR  
SPECIES HAS JUST  
TWO OPTIONS  
LEFT--PURSUE OUR  
EVERY WANT AND  
DESIRE, AND  
THEREBY DRAG THE  
WHOLE WORLD  
DOWN TO  
DESTRUCTION...



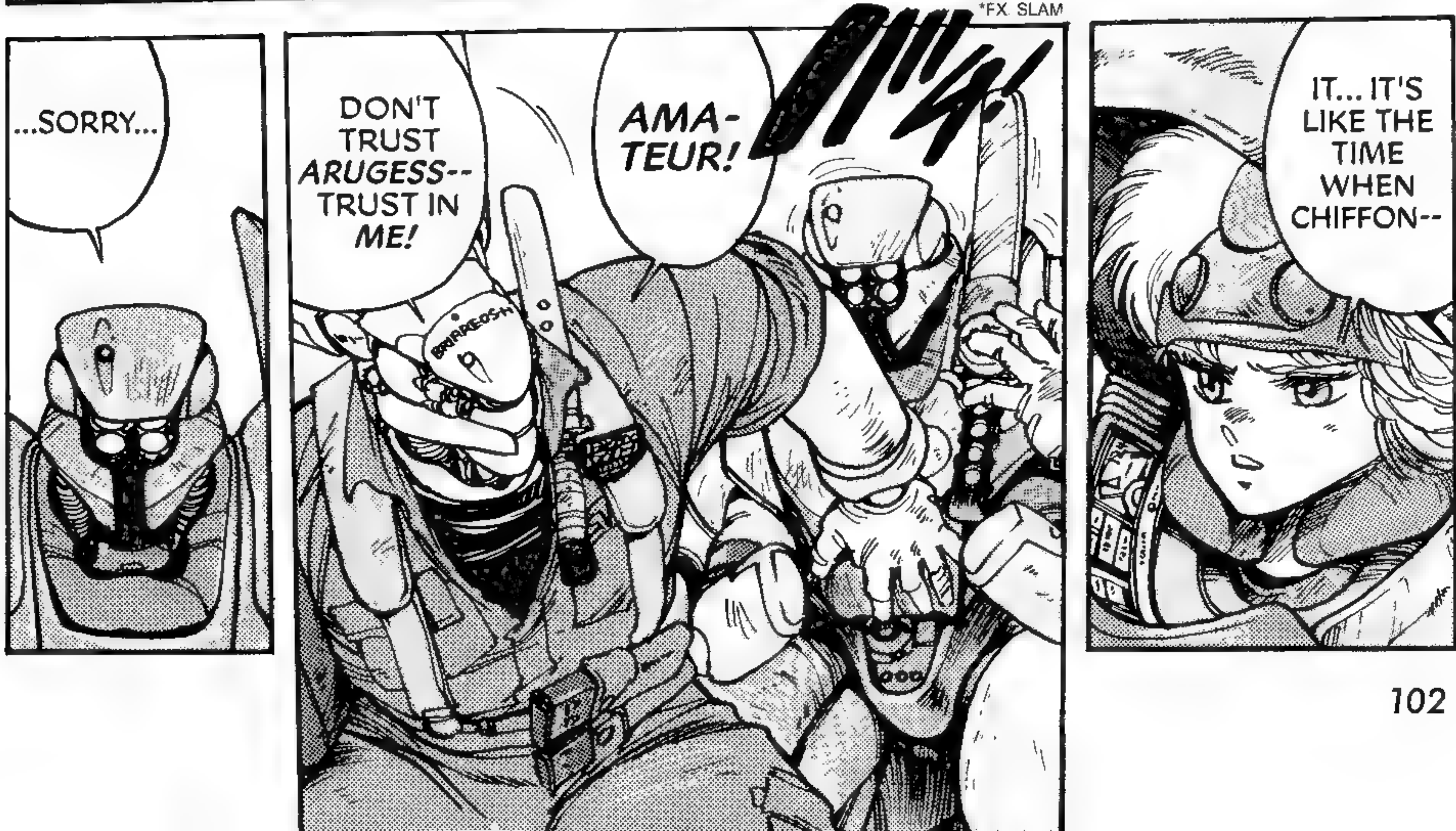
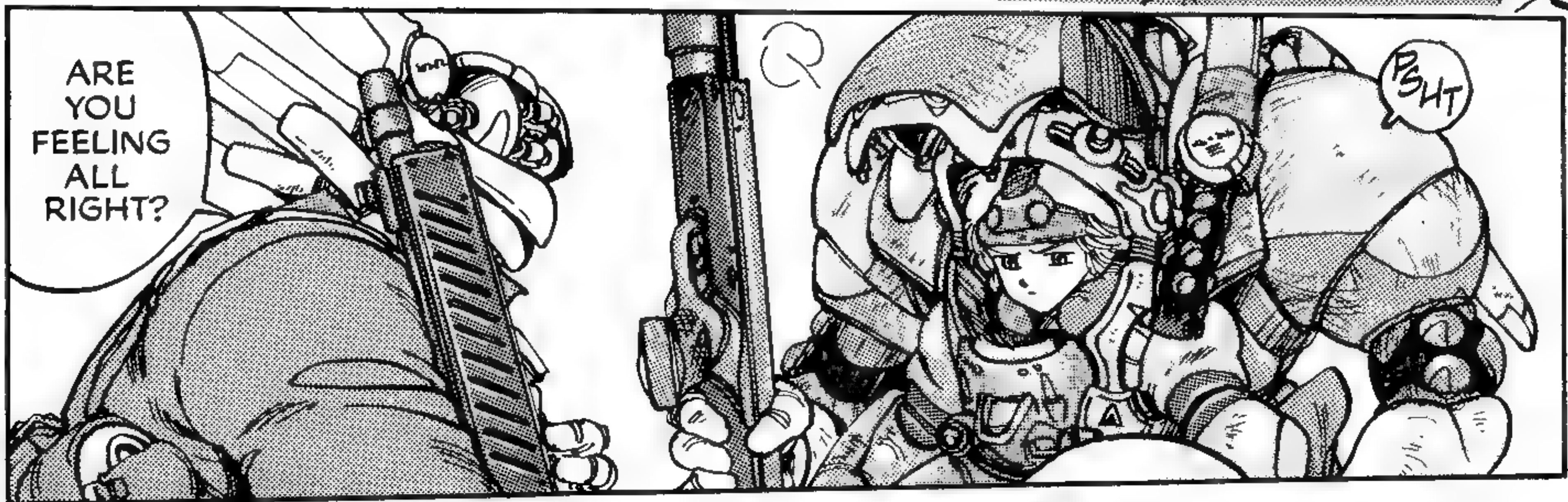




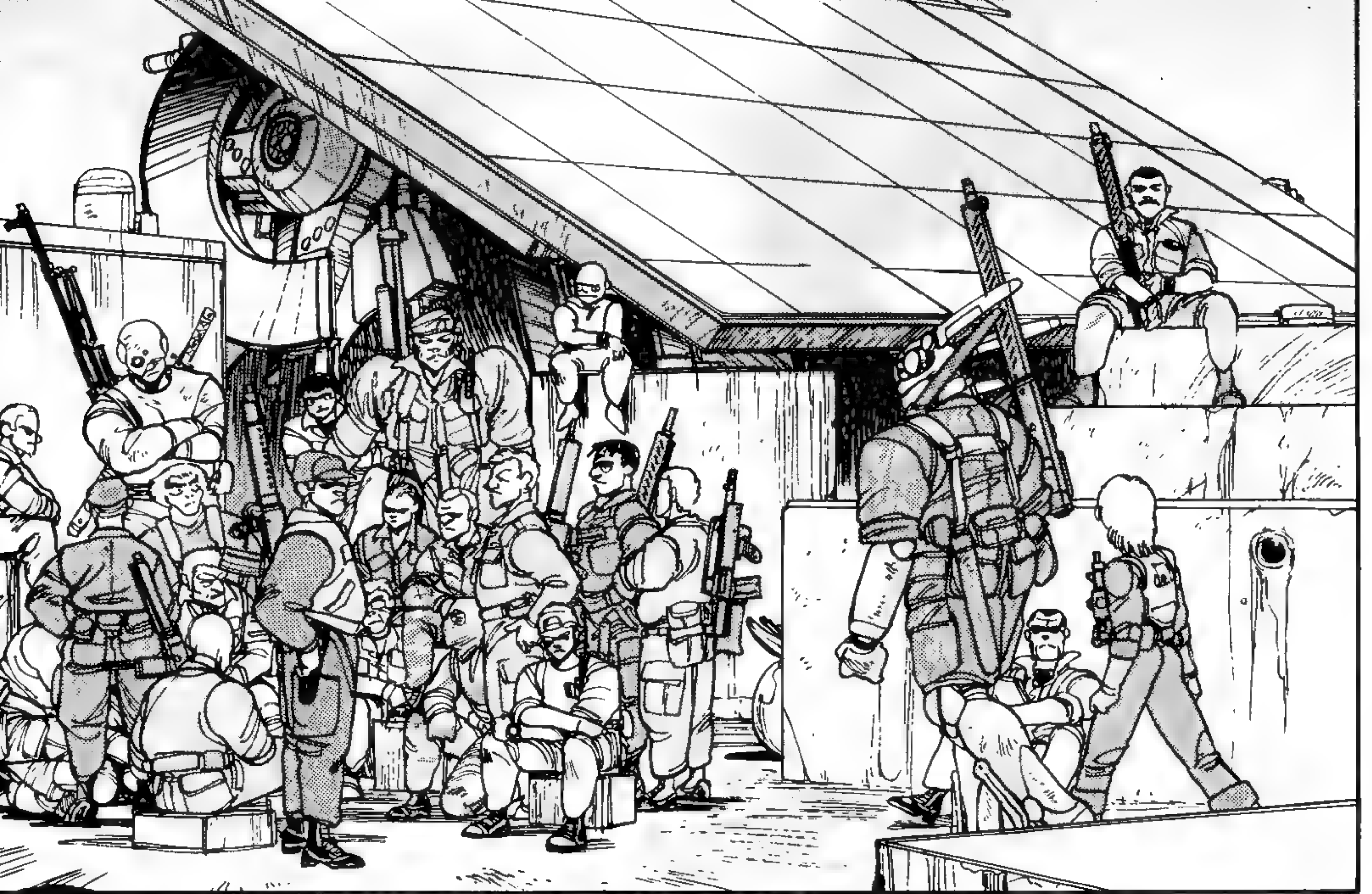




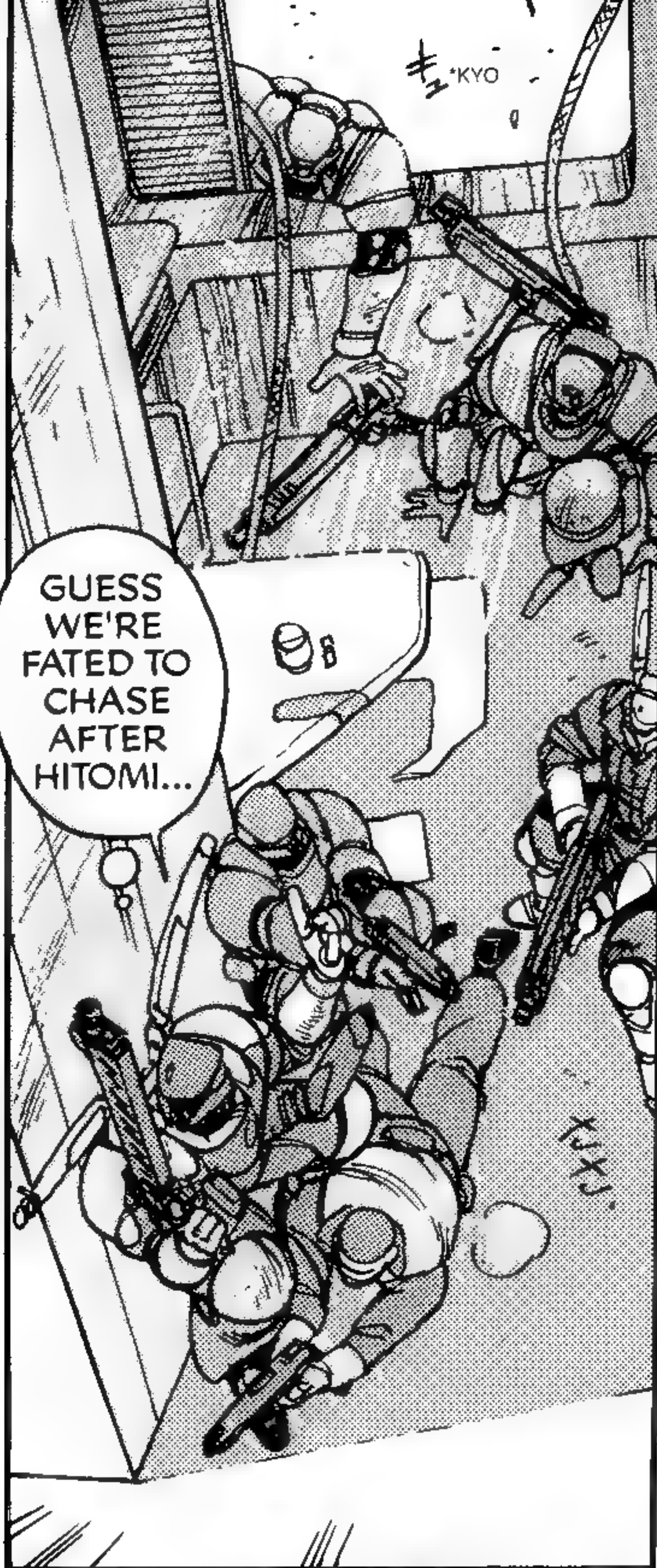
OLYMPUS  
CRIME  
ANALYSIS  
AND  
REMAND  
CENTER



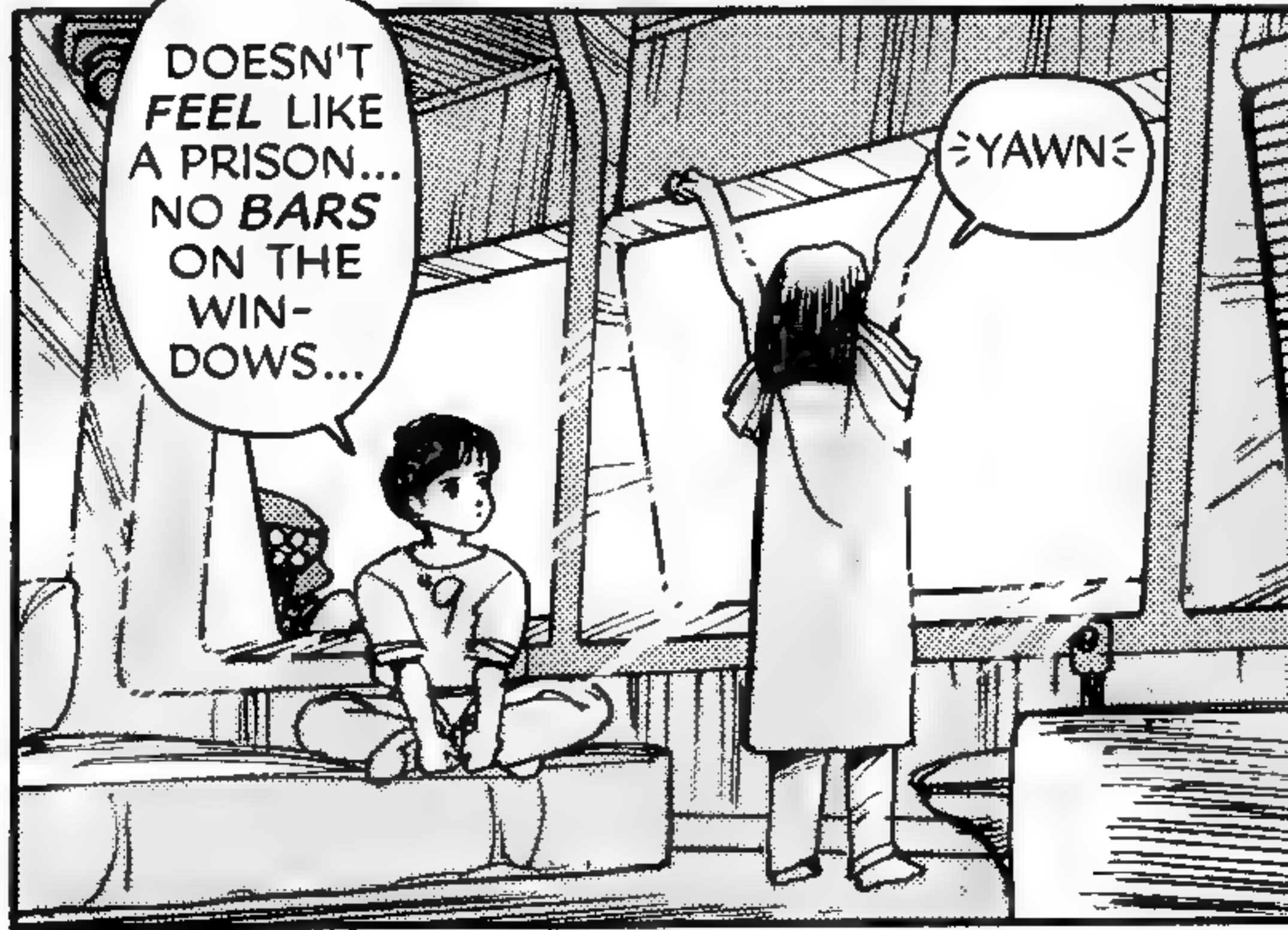
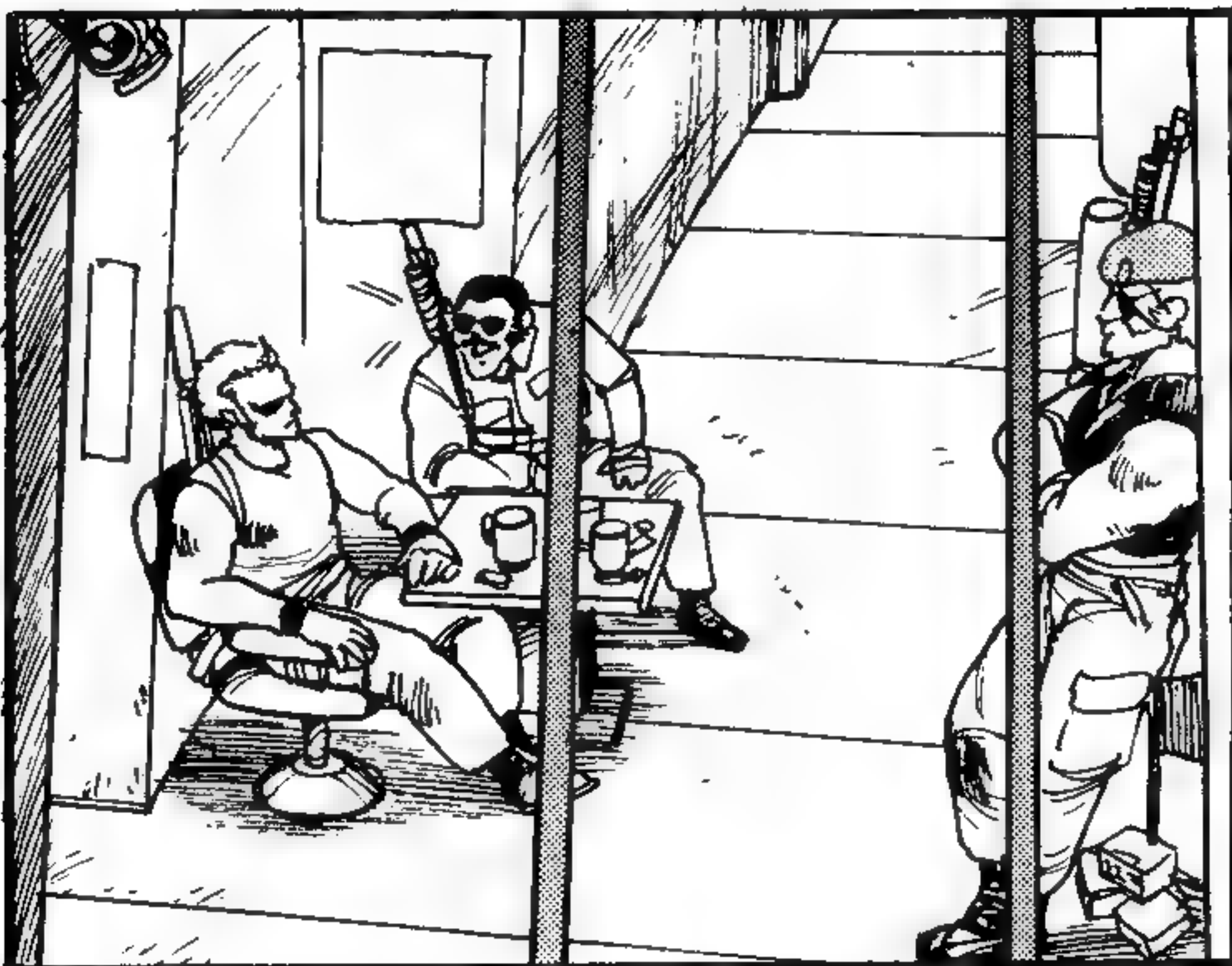
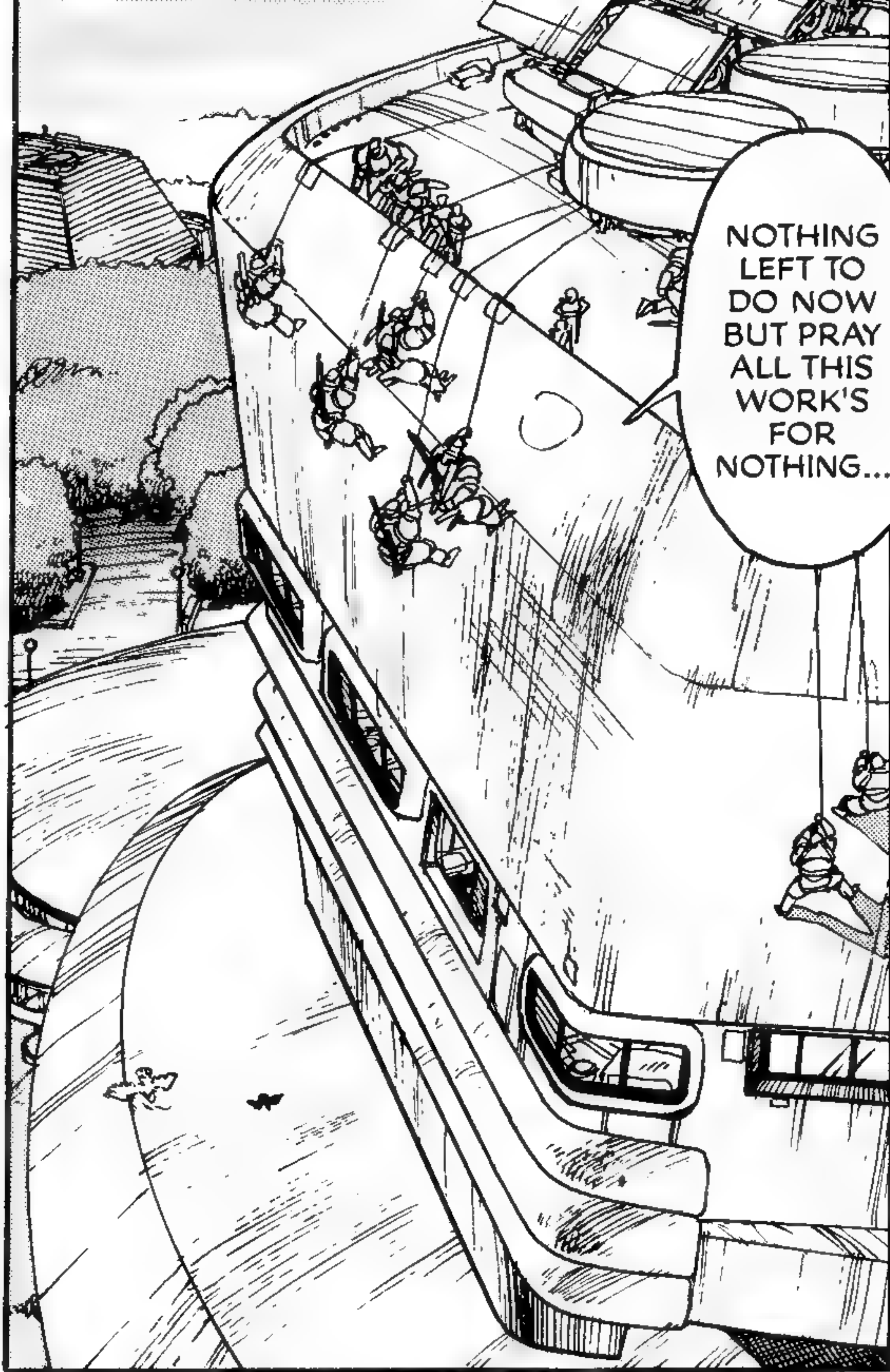




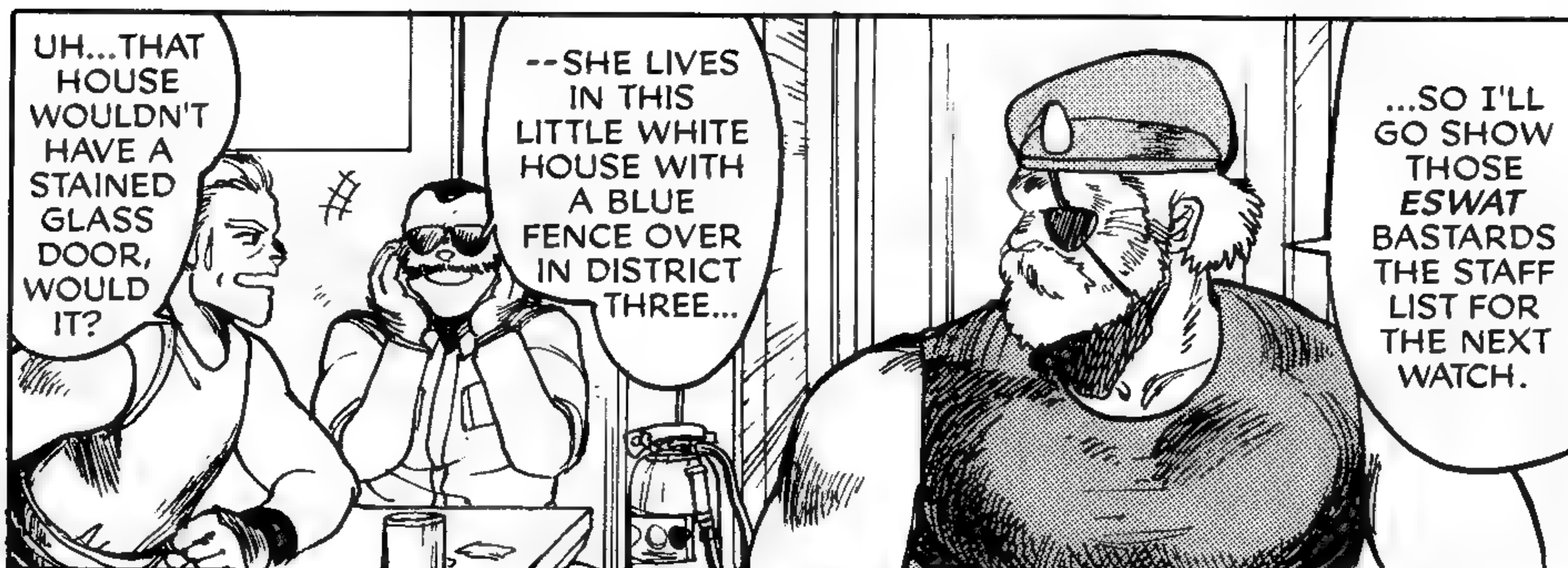




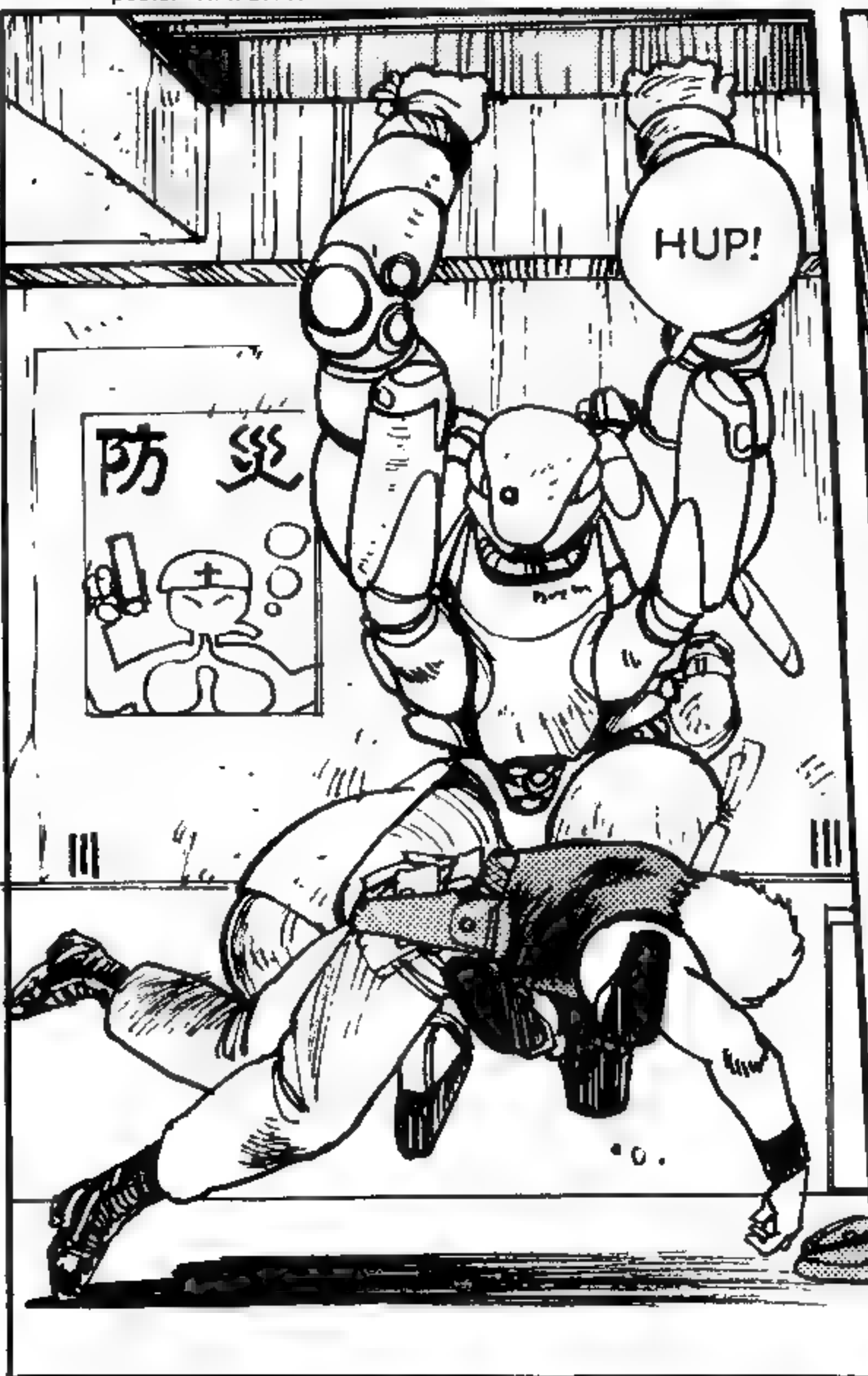
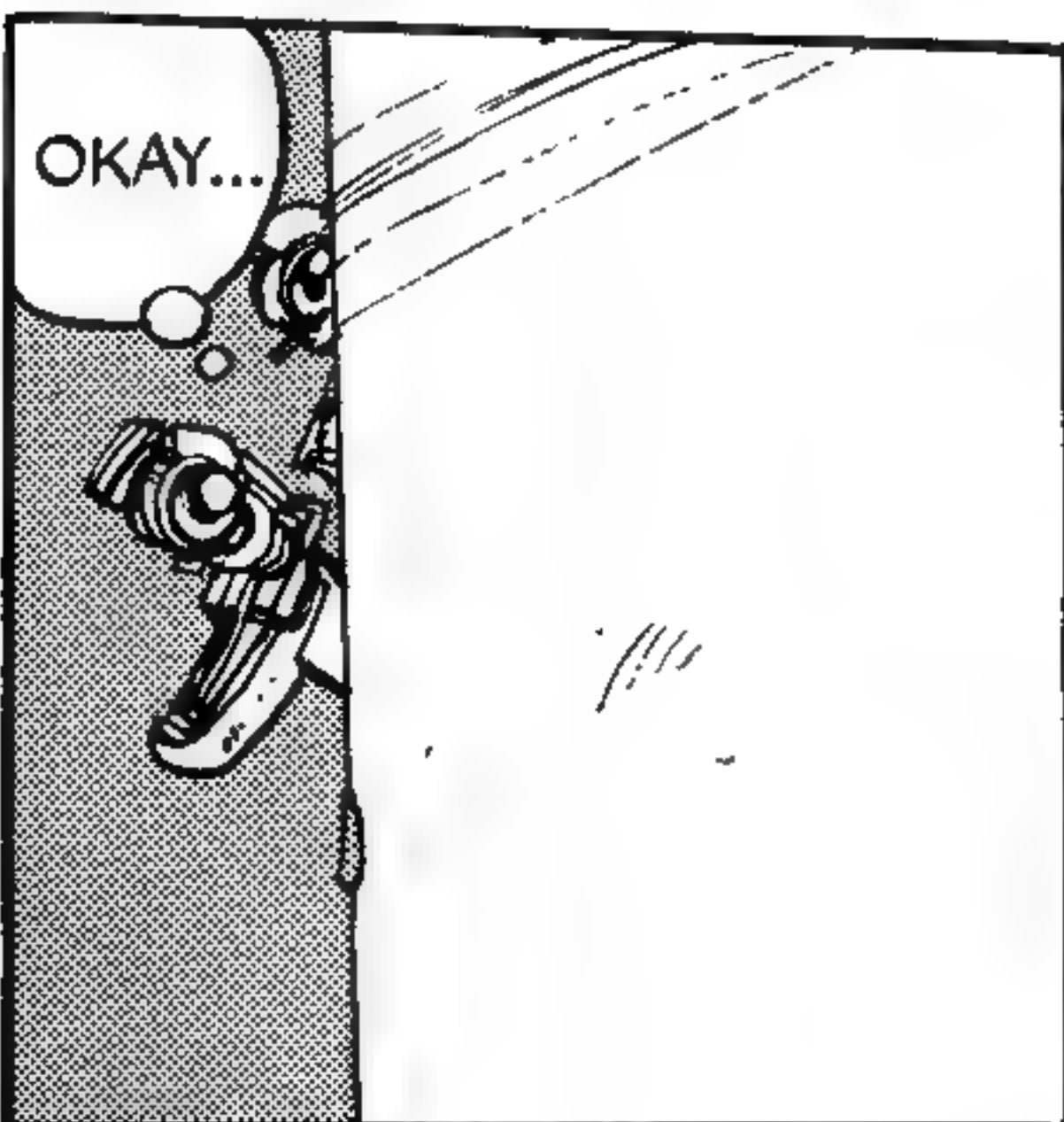
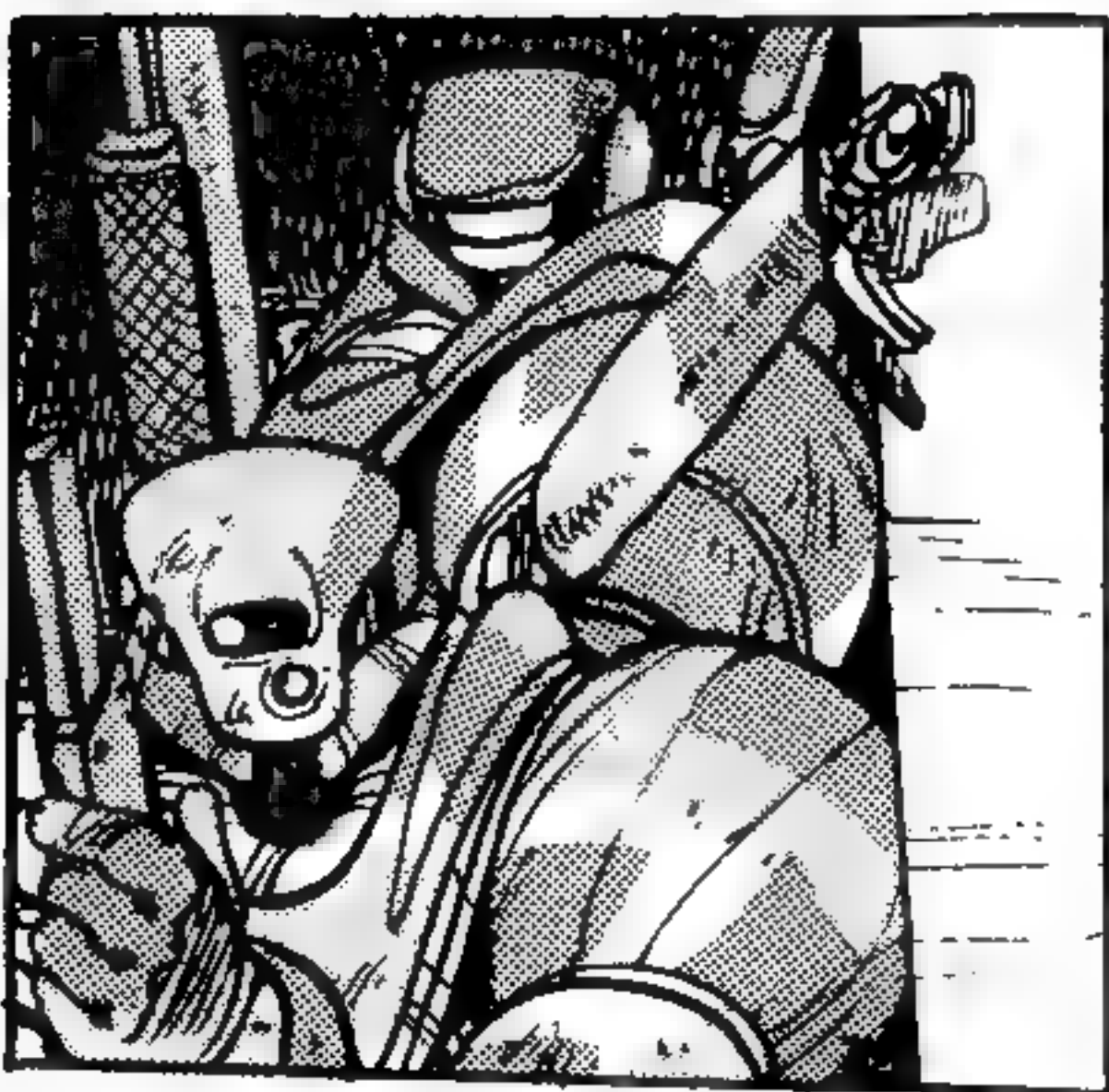
\*FX. WHDD



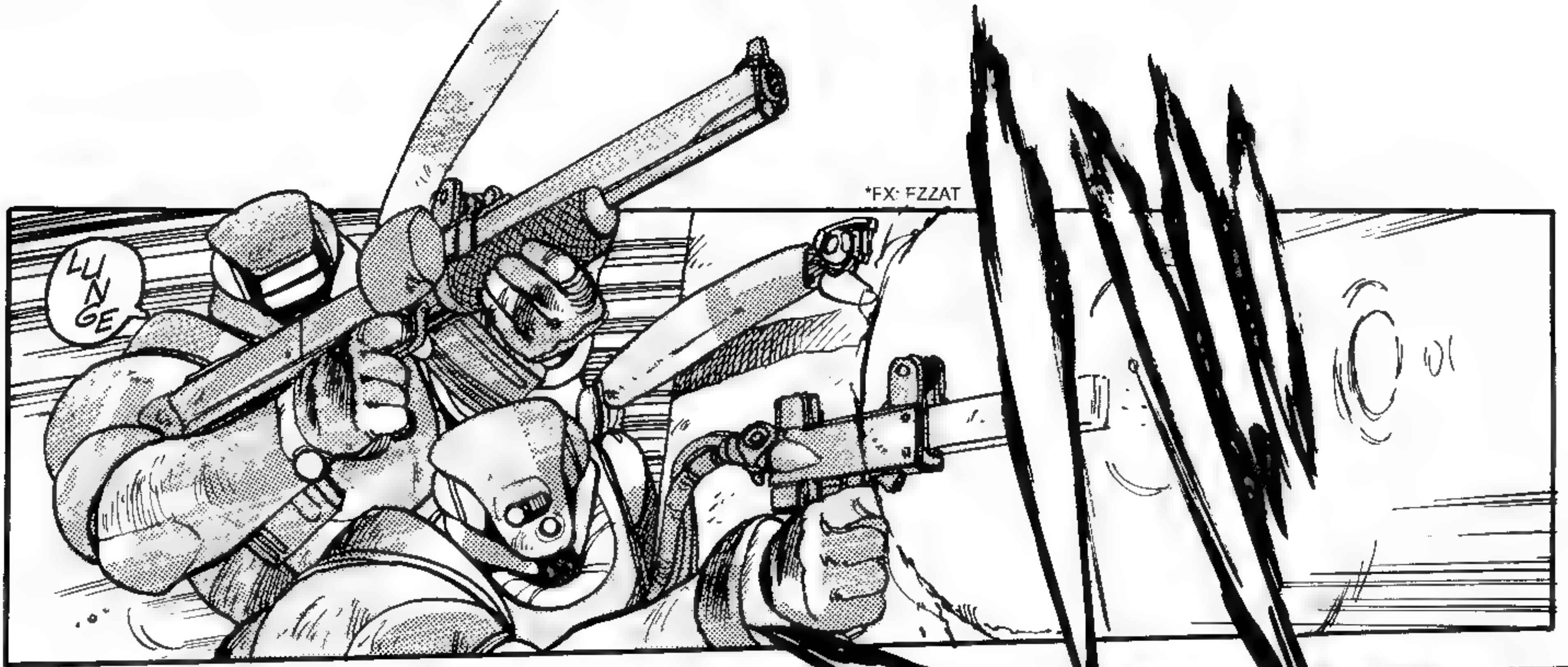




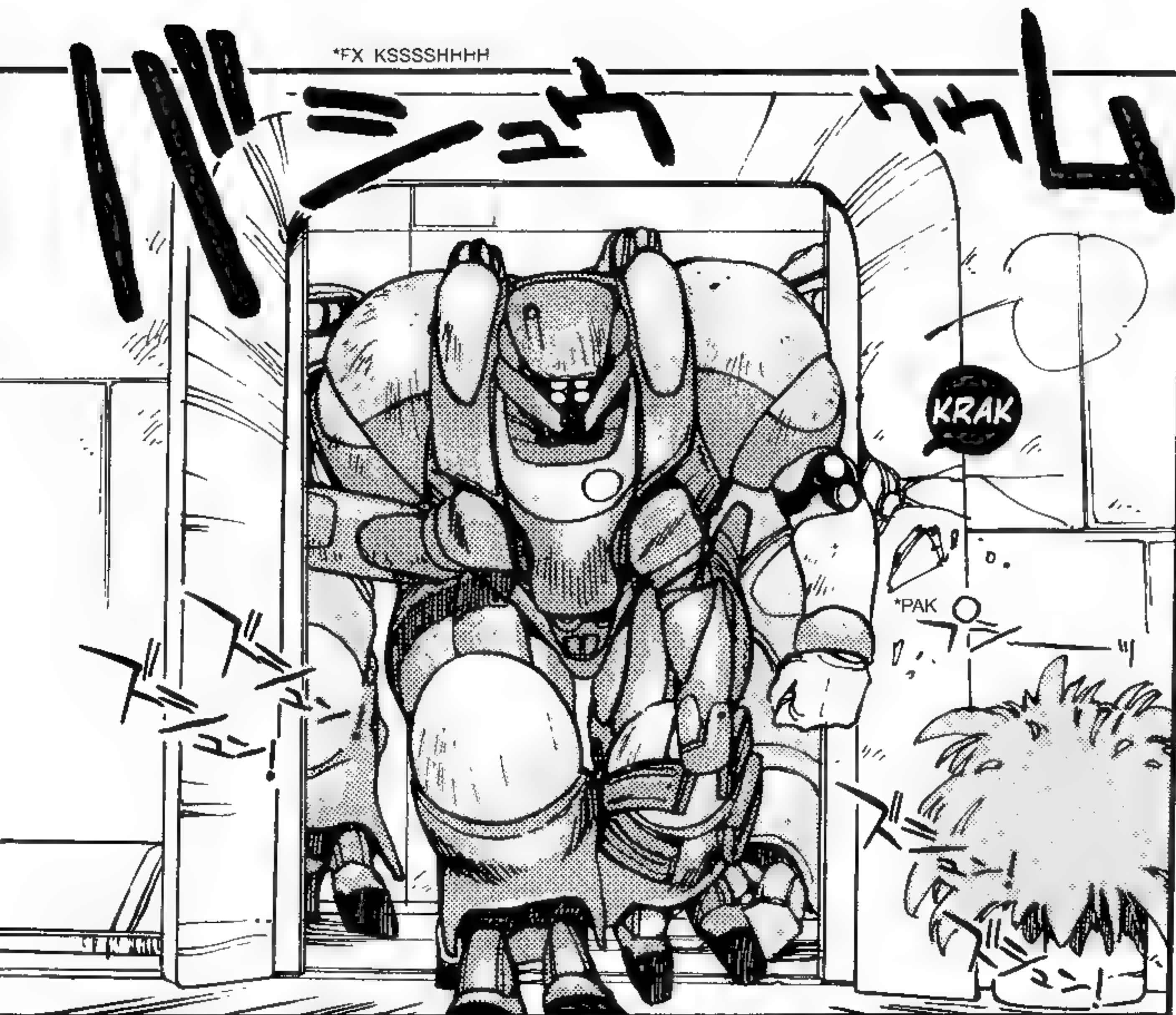
\*poster WATCH IT!







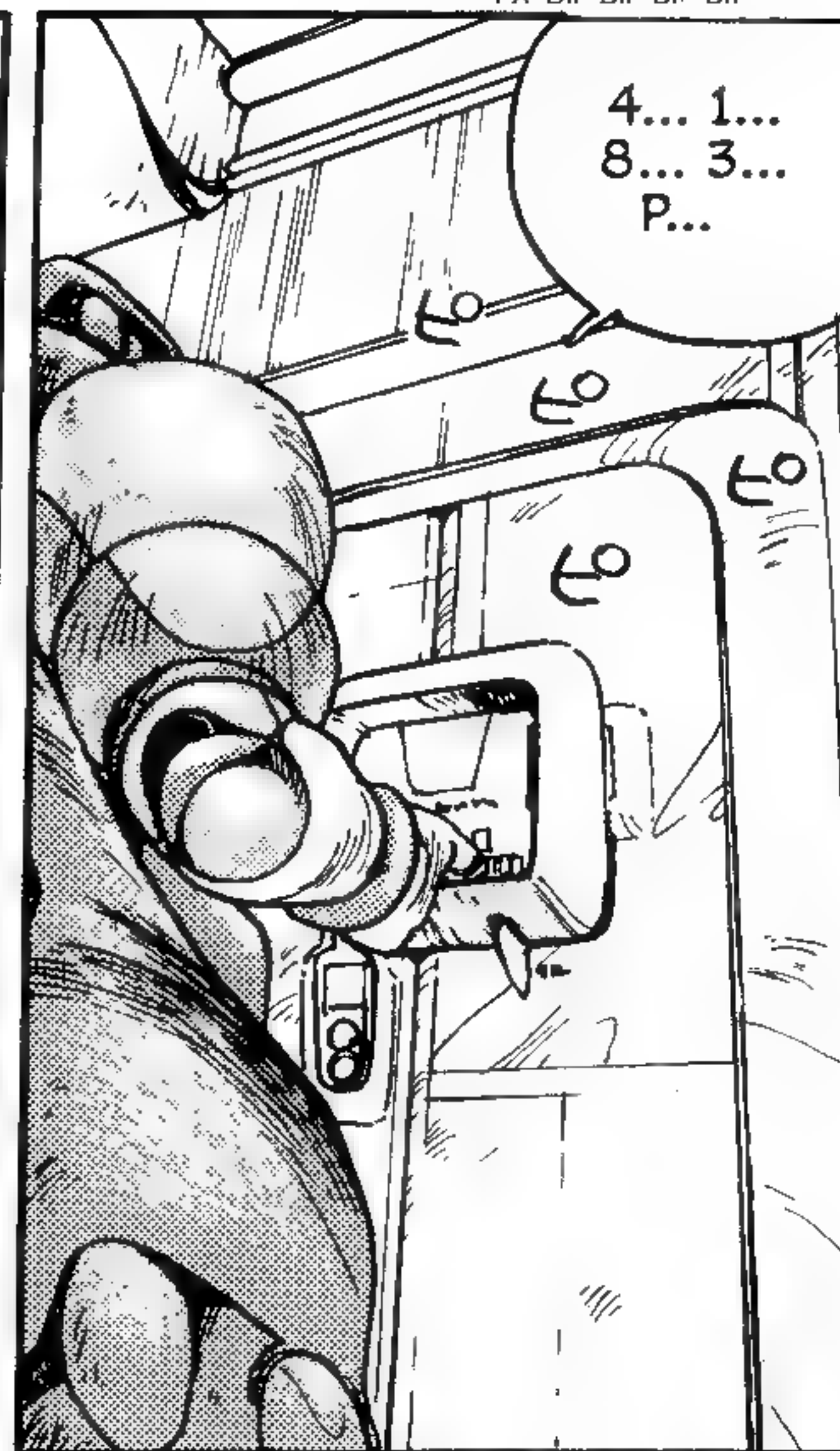




\*FX KSSSSHHHH

KRAK

\*PAK

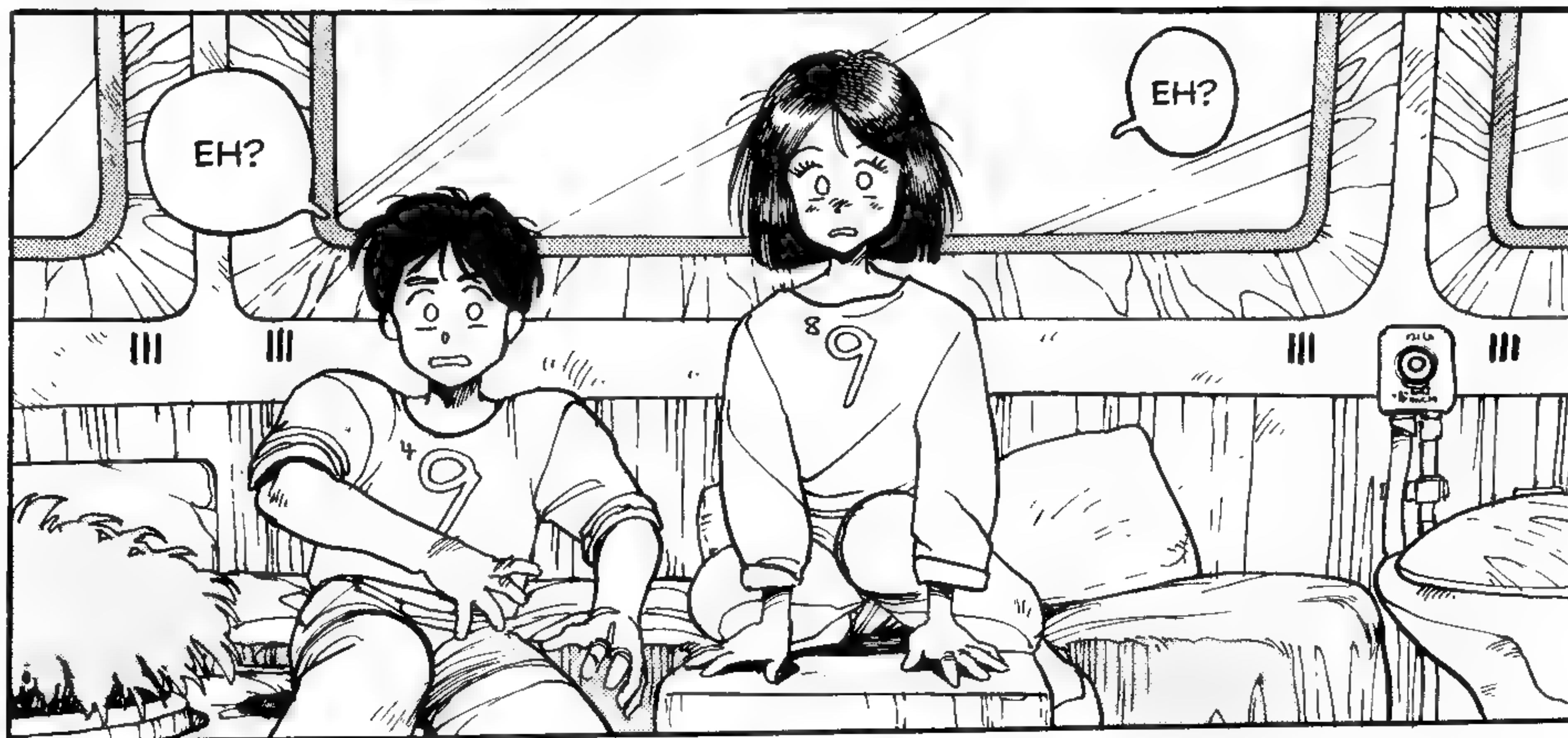


\*FX BIP BIP BIP BIP

4... 1...  
8... 3...  
P...

\*FX KSHANG KSHANG

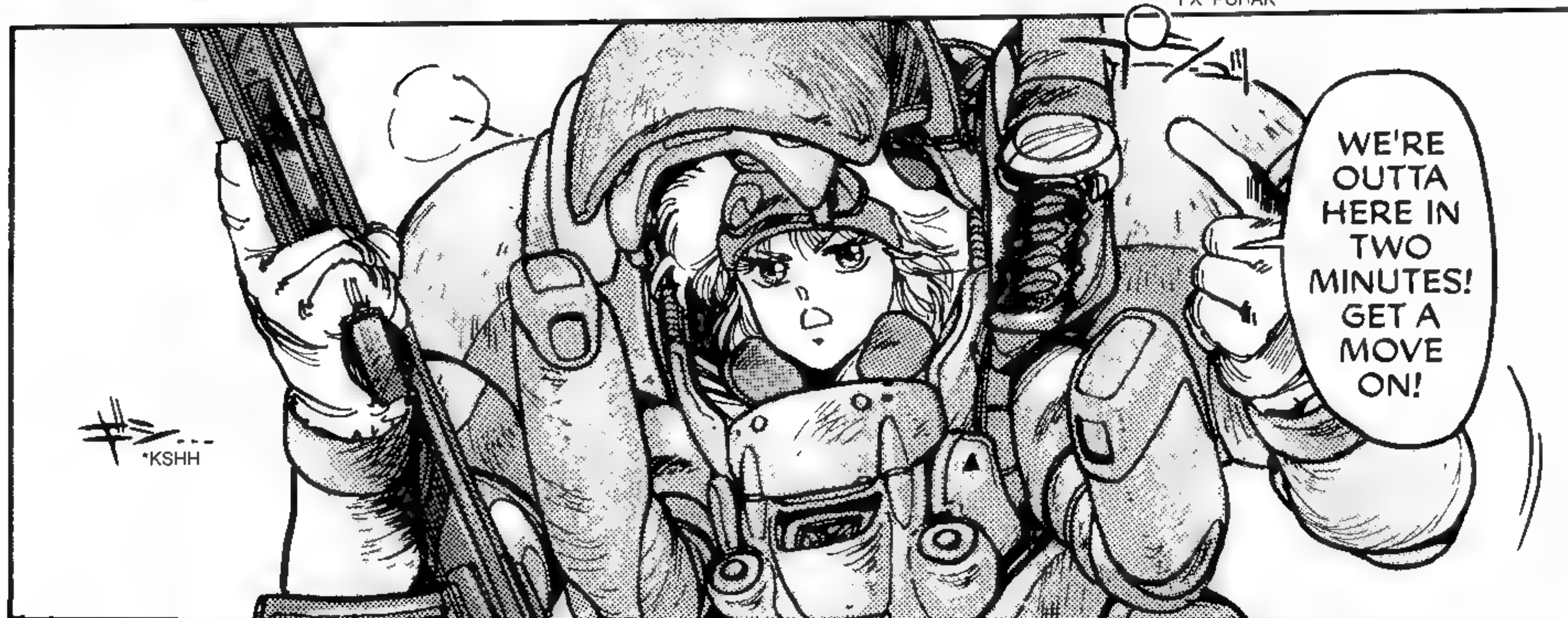
\*FX KSHANG KSHANG



EH?

EH?

FX PCHAK



\*KSHH

WE'RE  
OUTTA  
HERE IN  
TWO  
MINUTES!  
GET A  
MOVE  
ON!

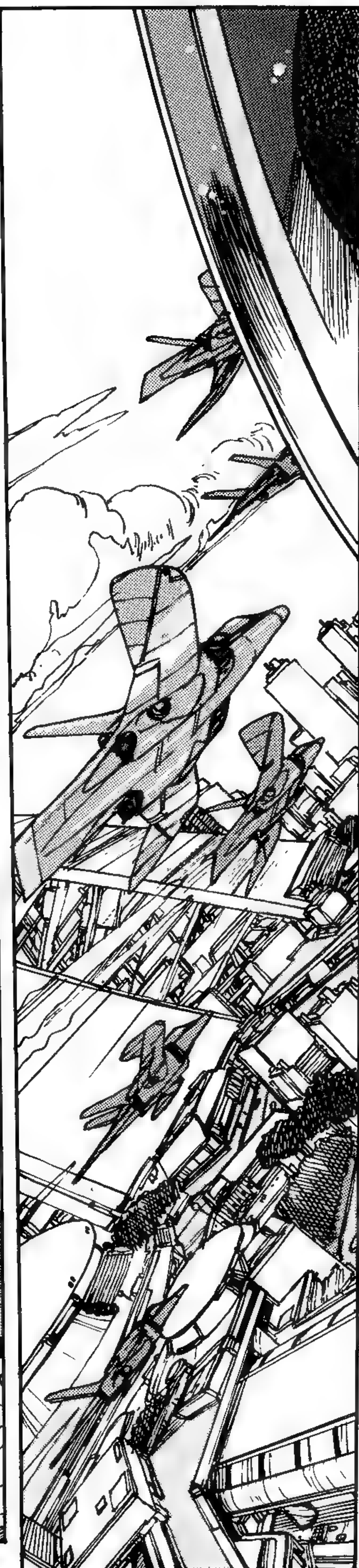
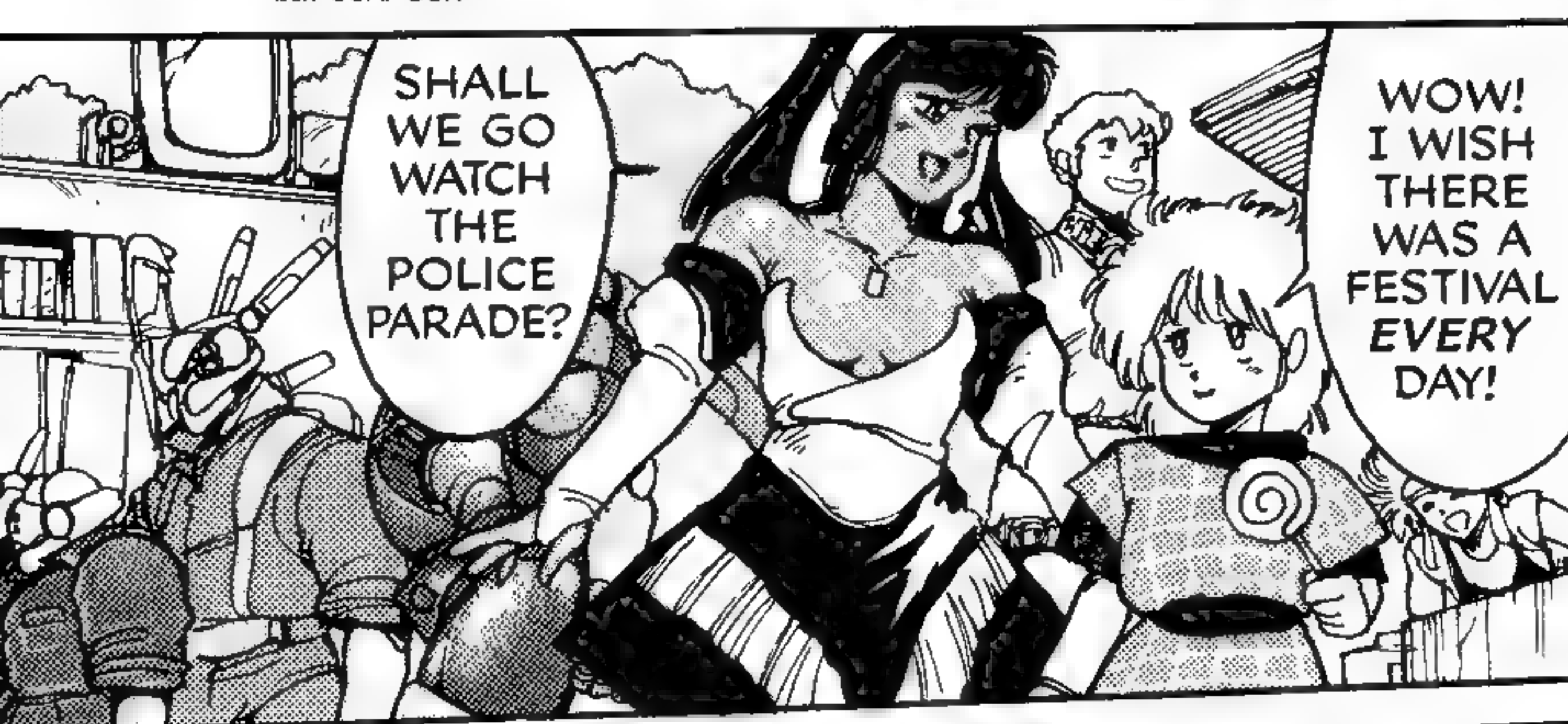




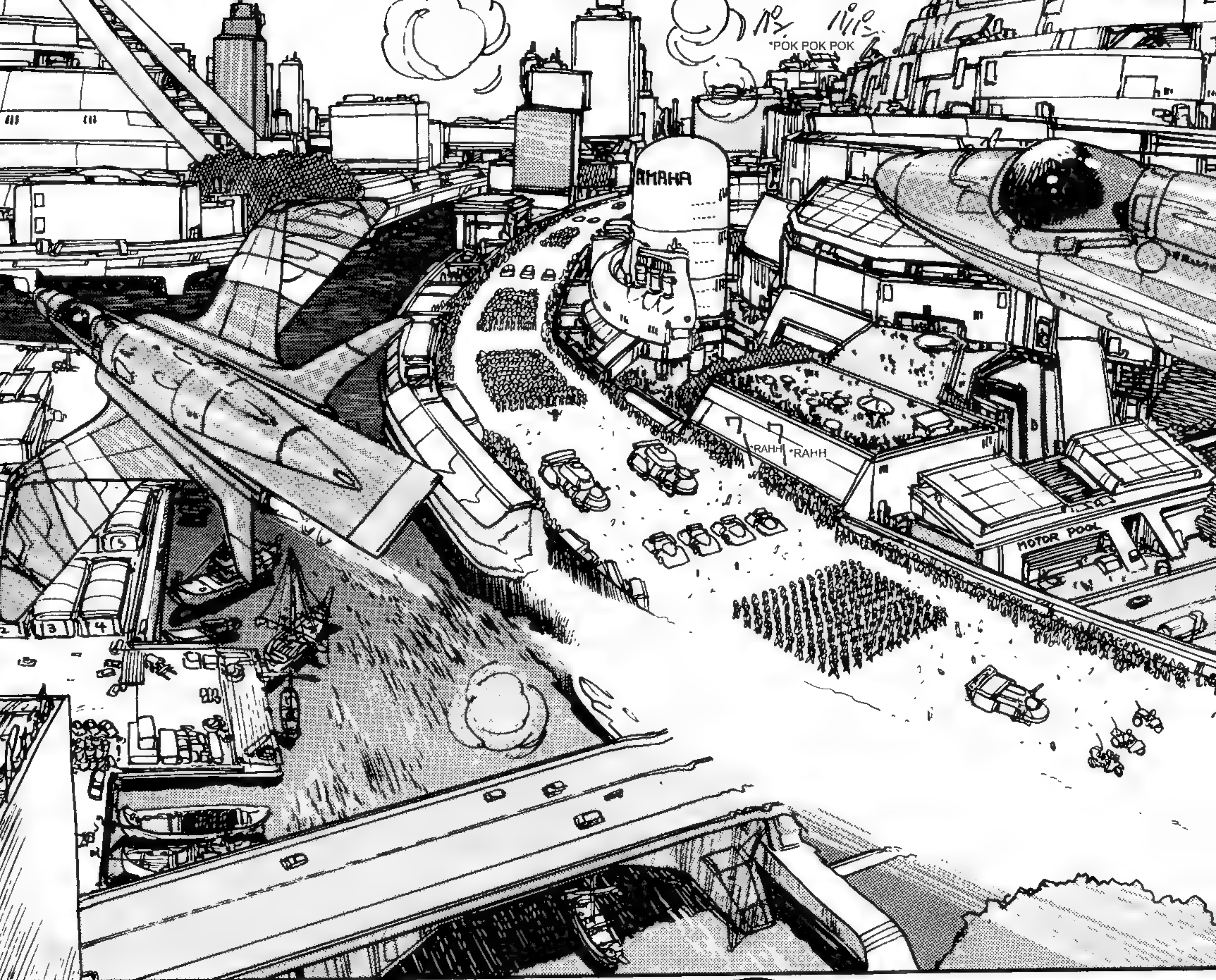
\*FX POK POK POK POK POK POK POK



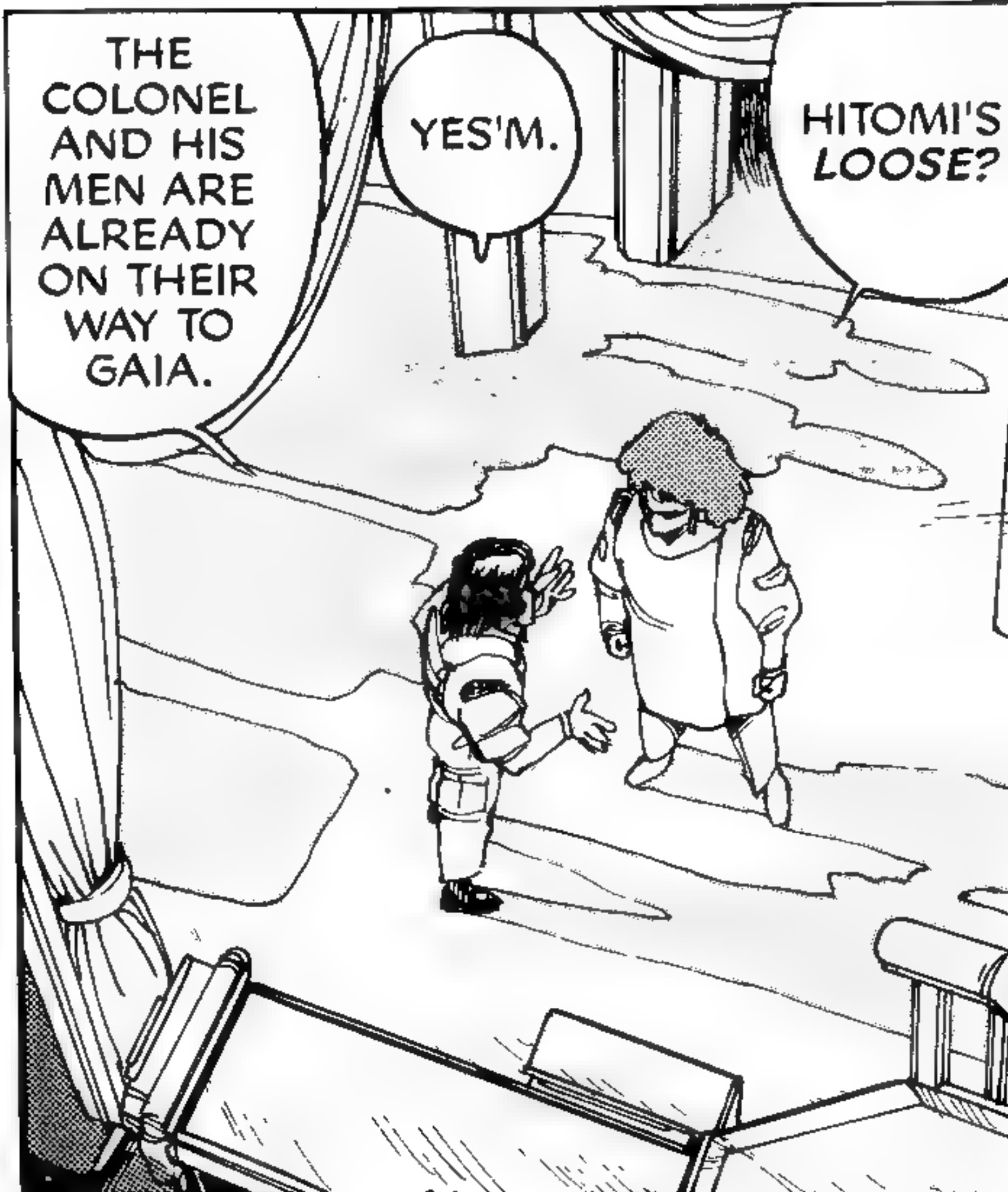
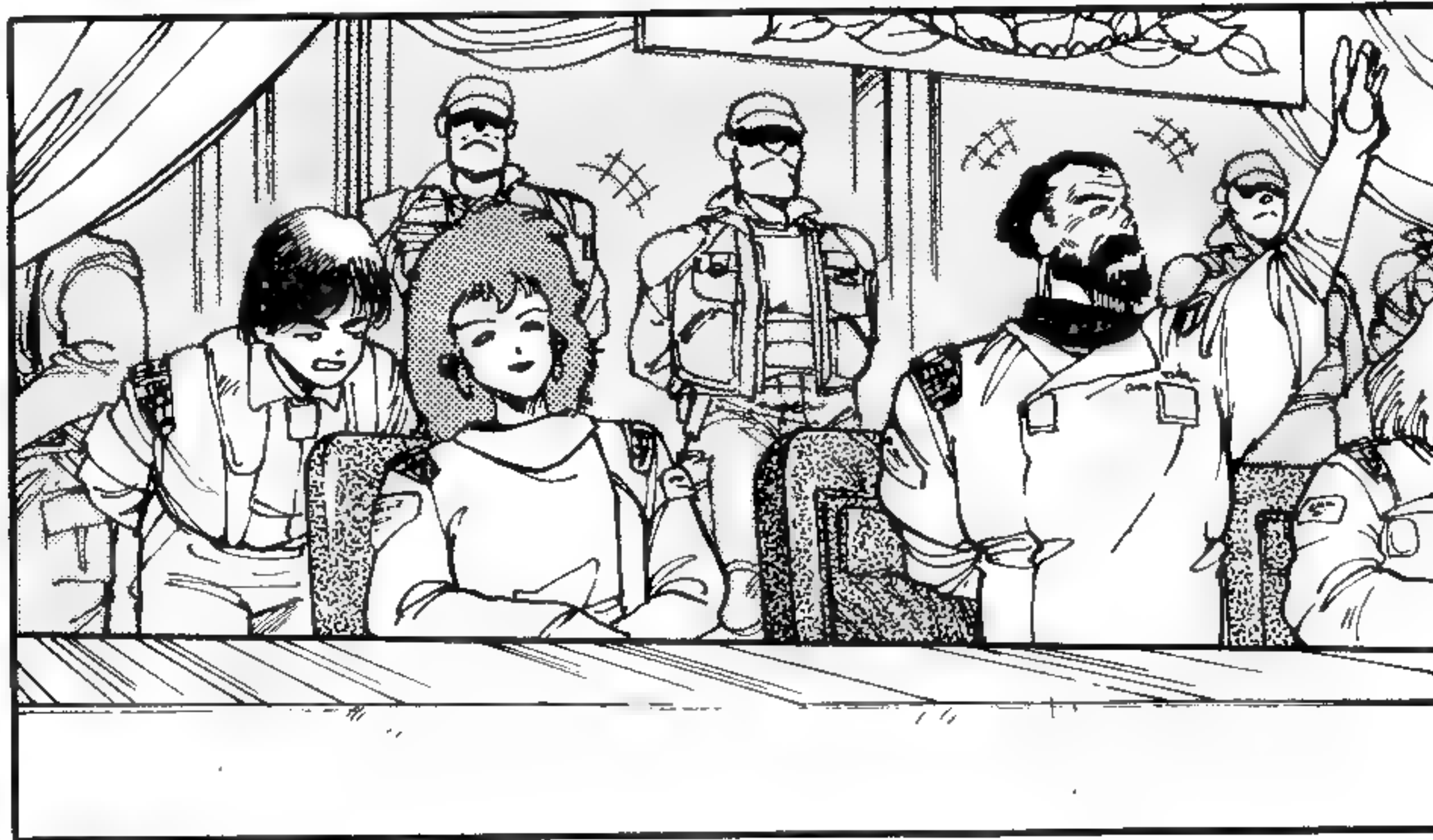
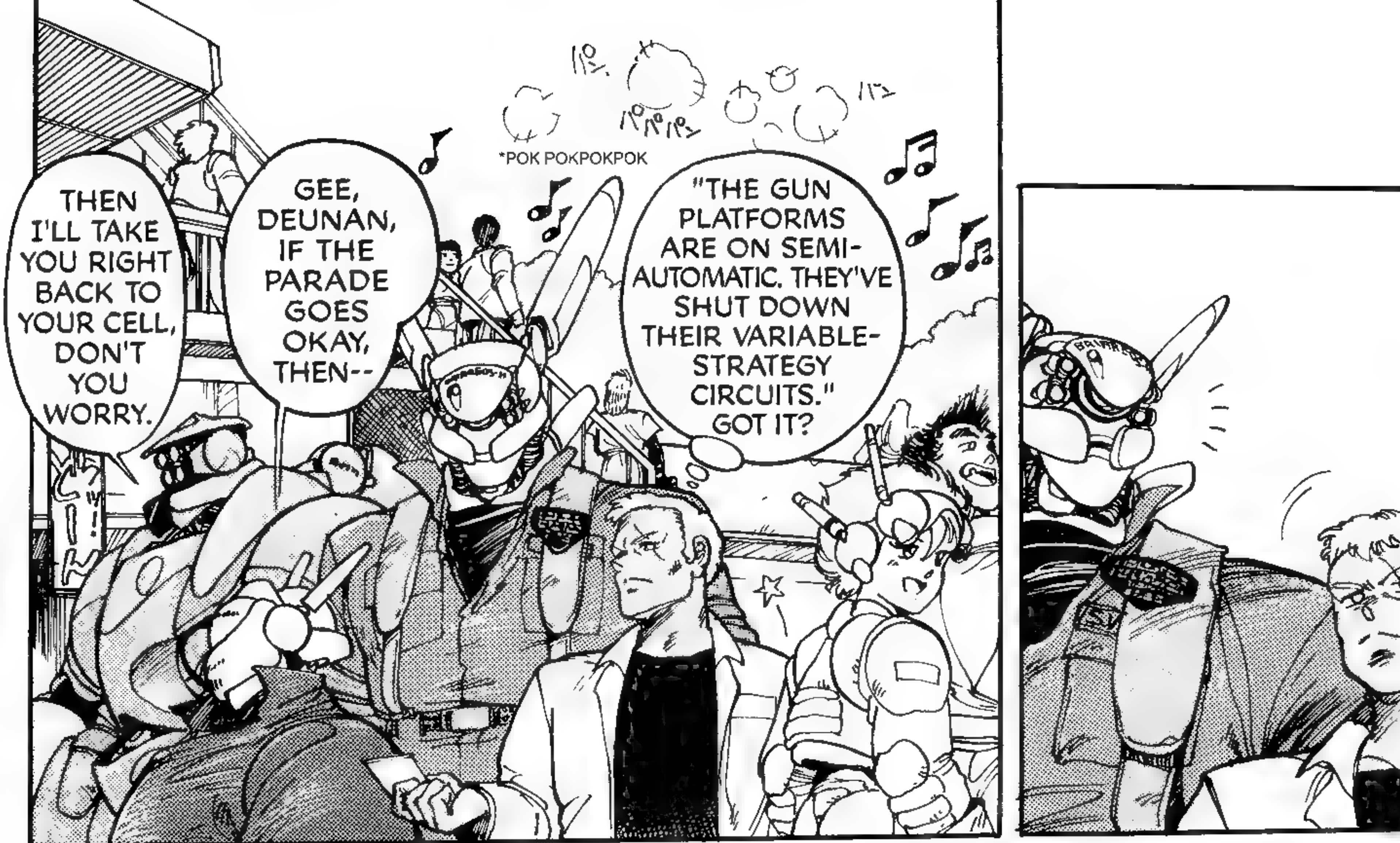




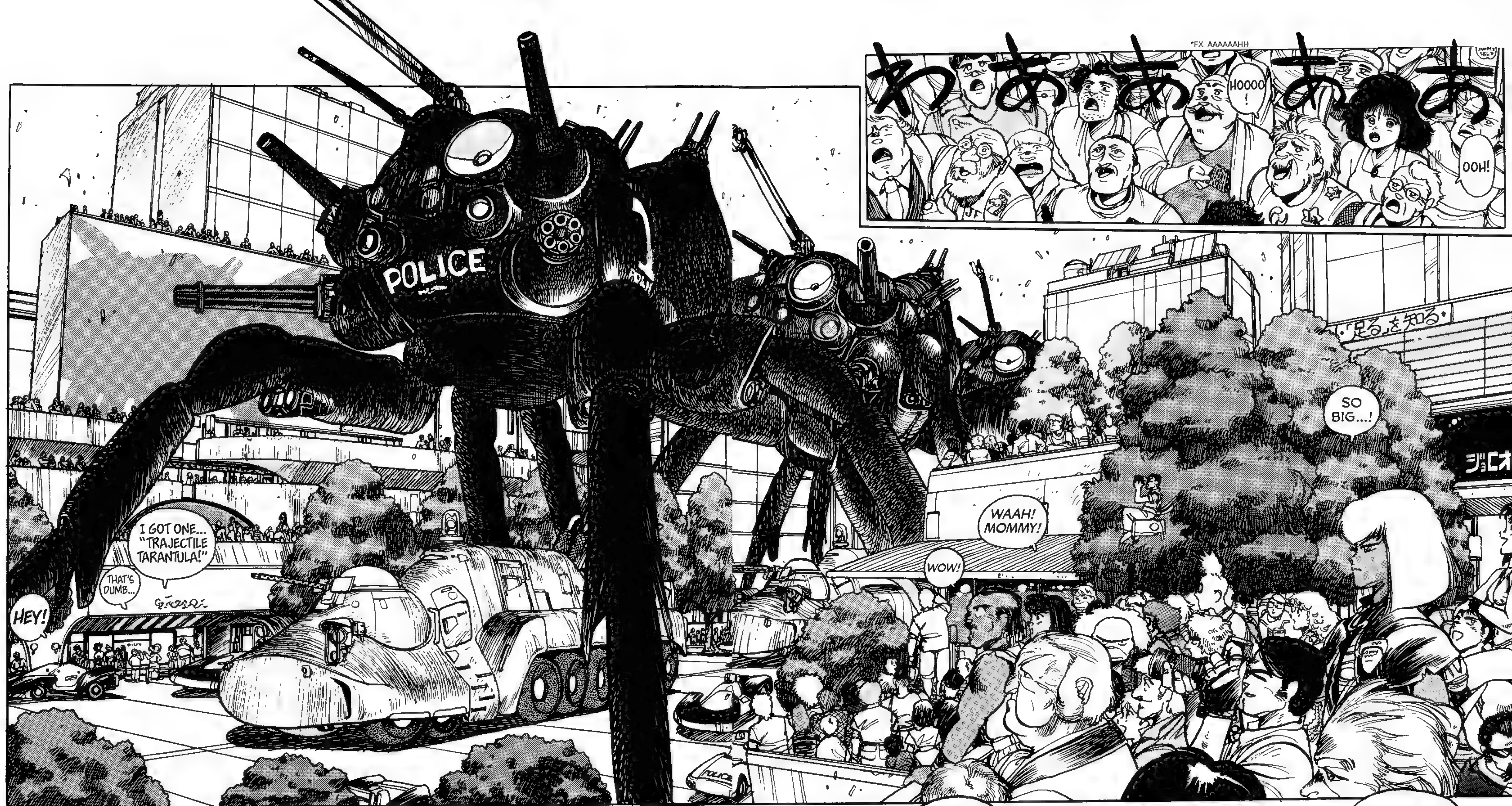




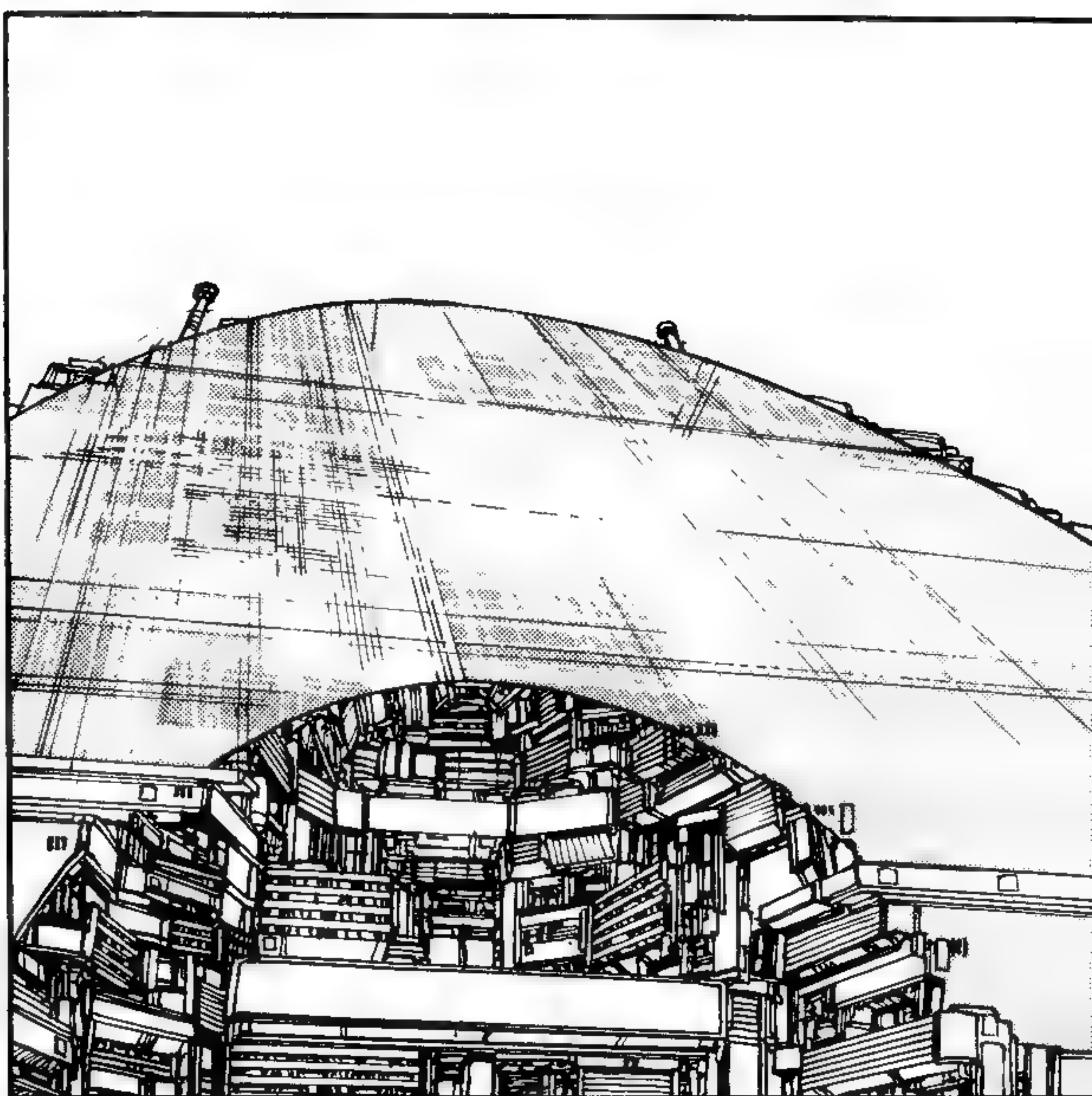
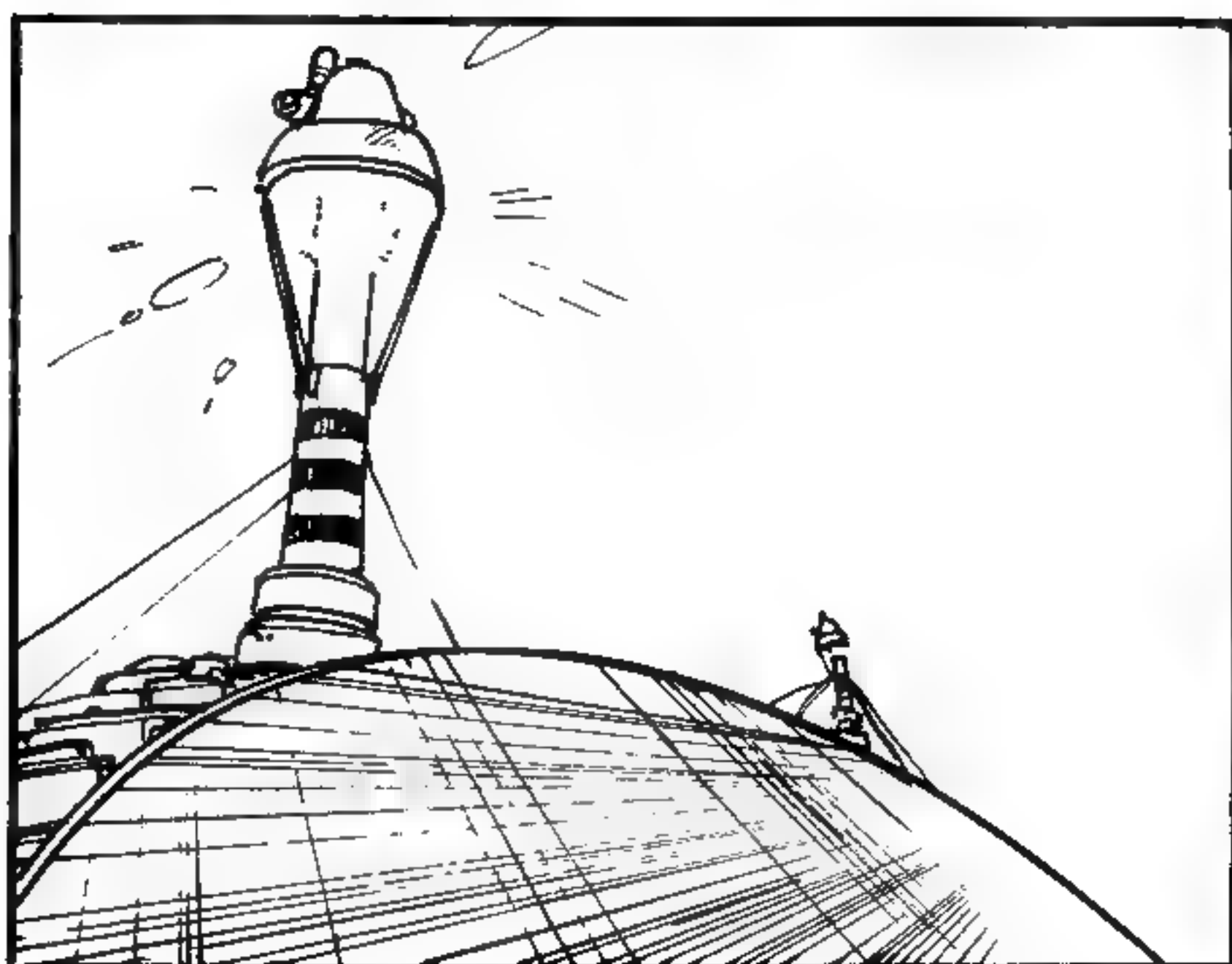
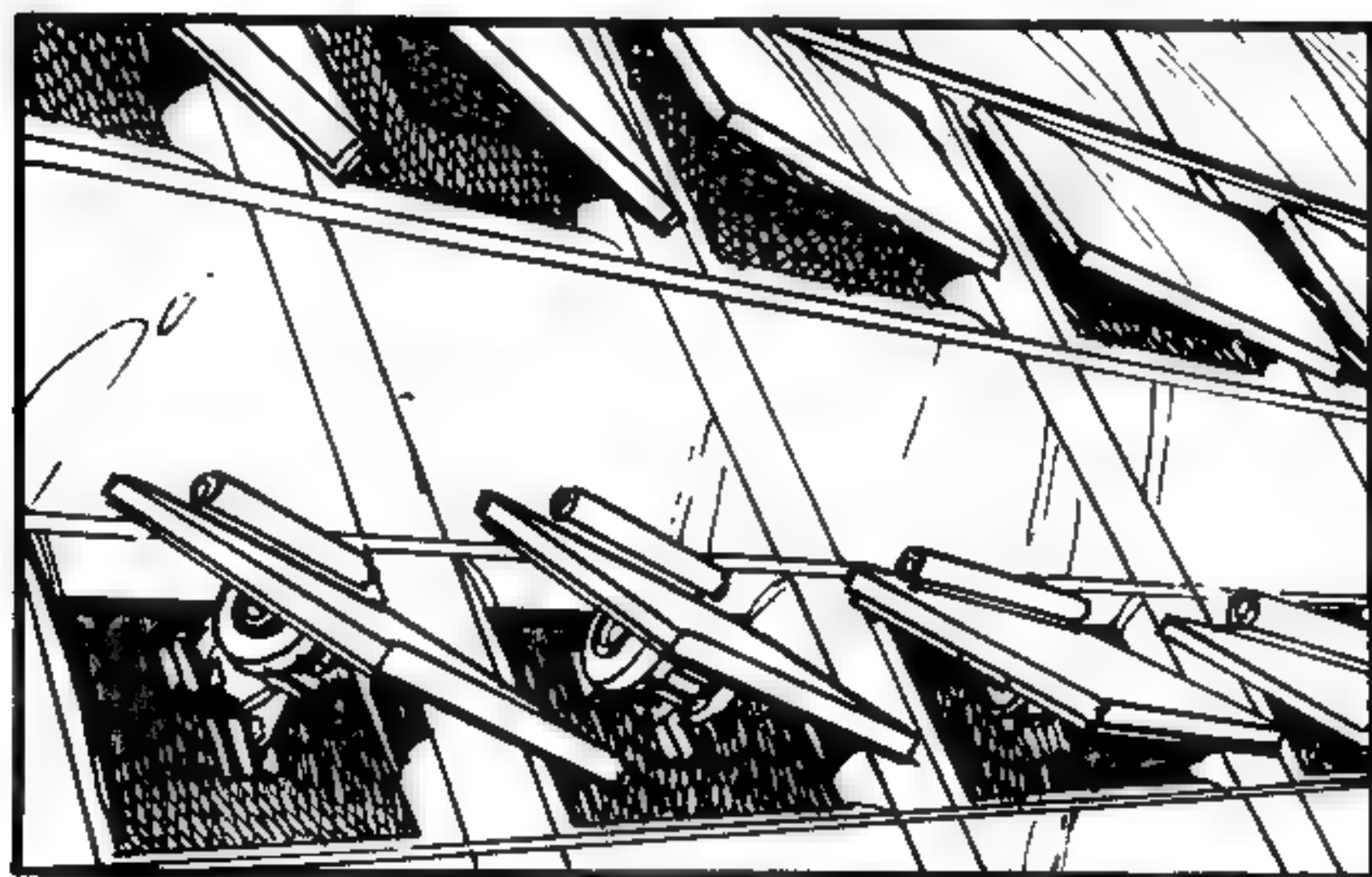
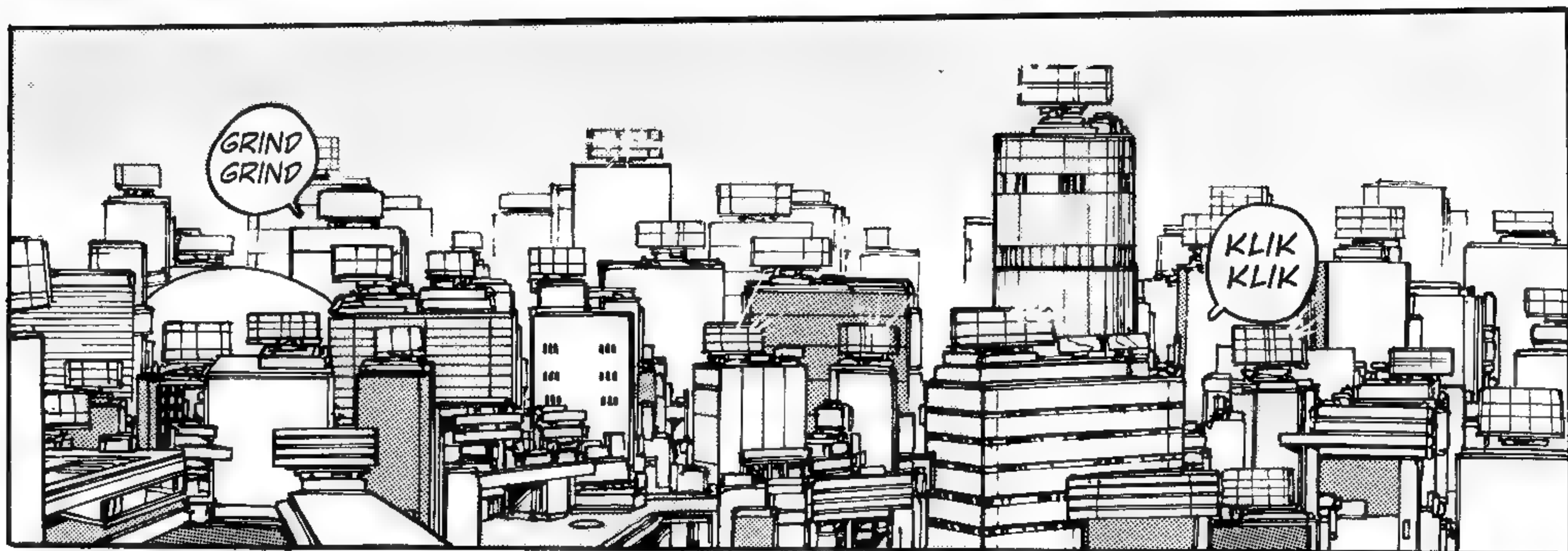
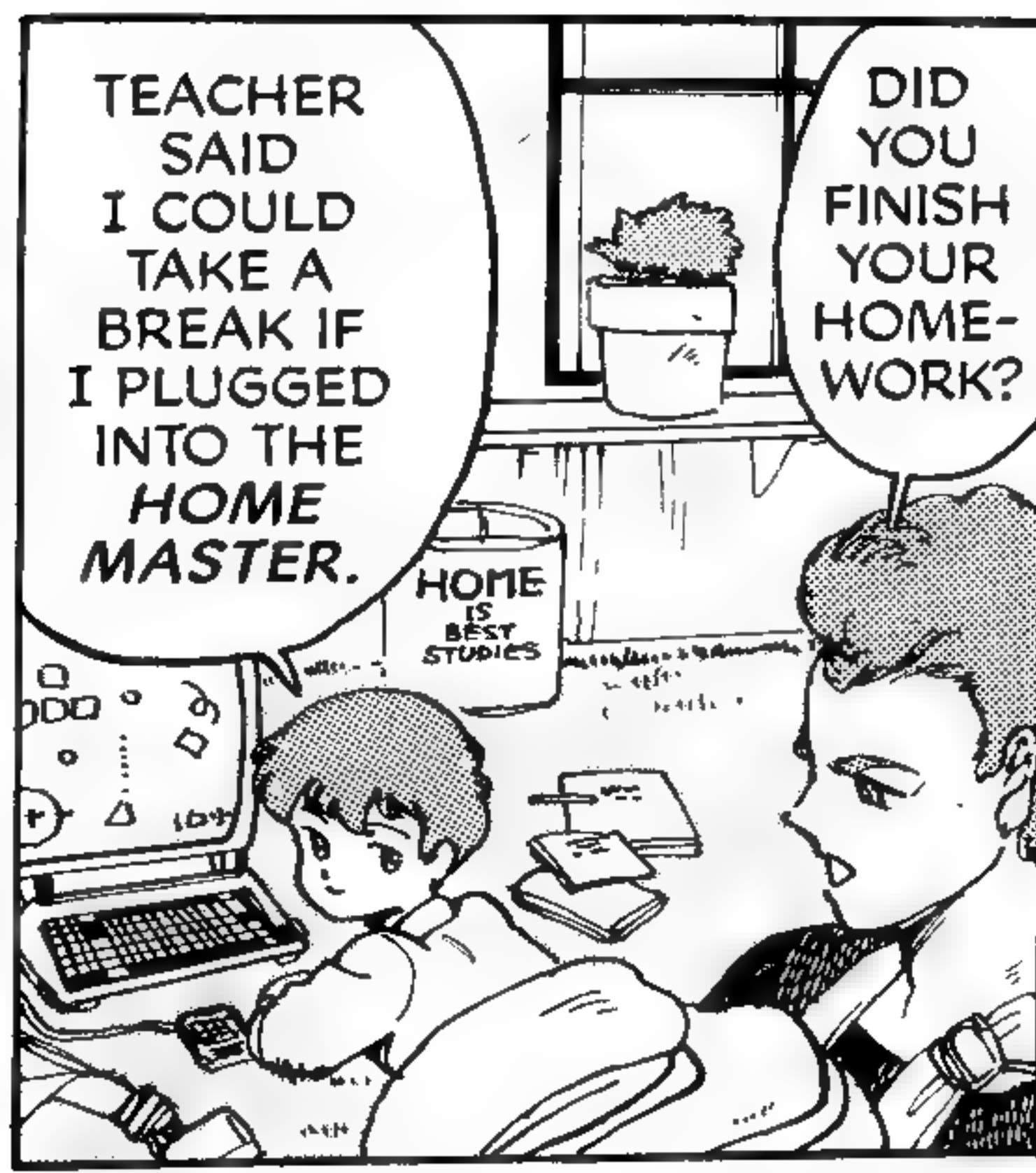
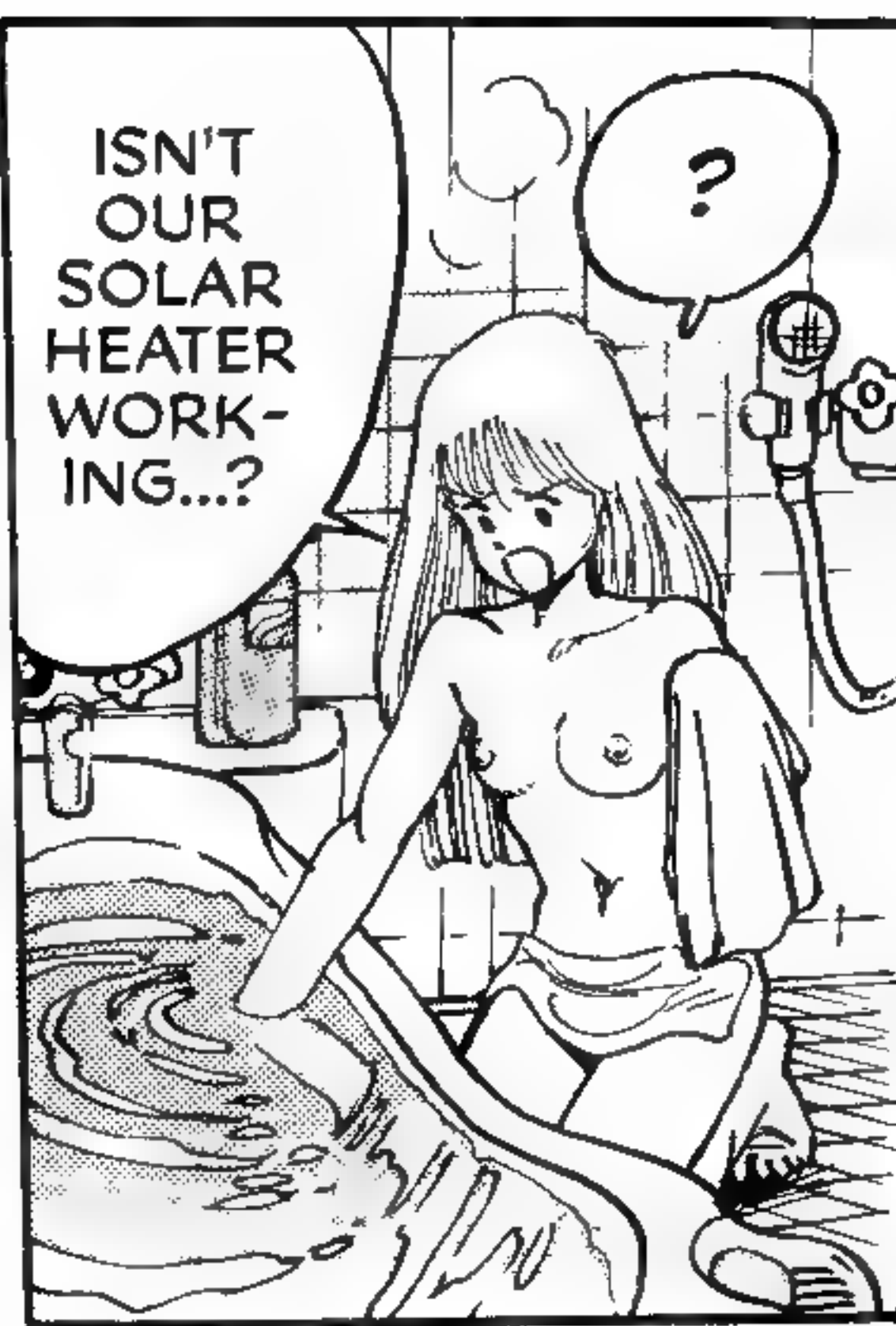








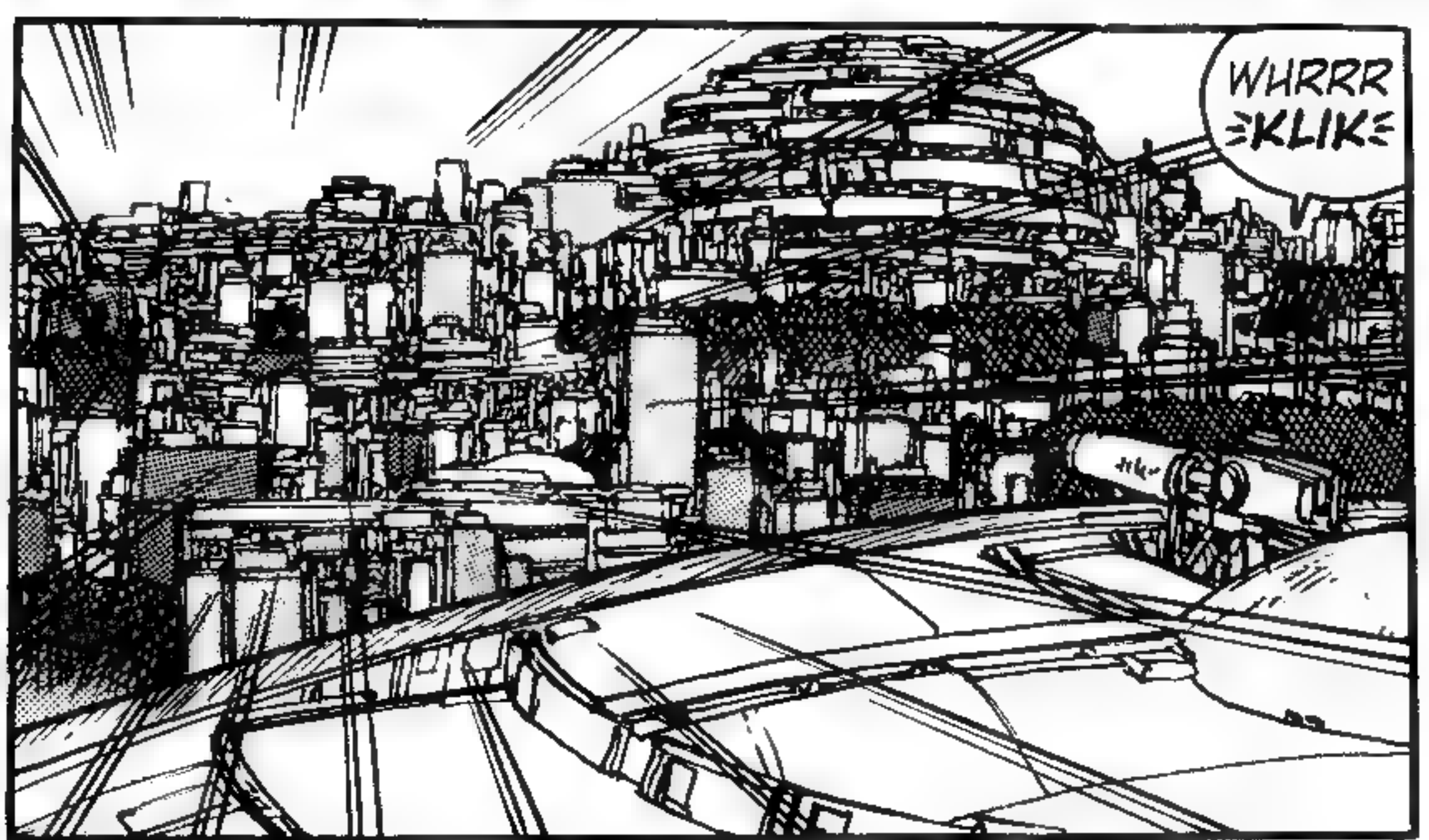
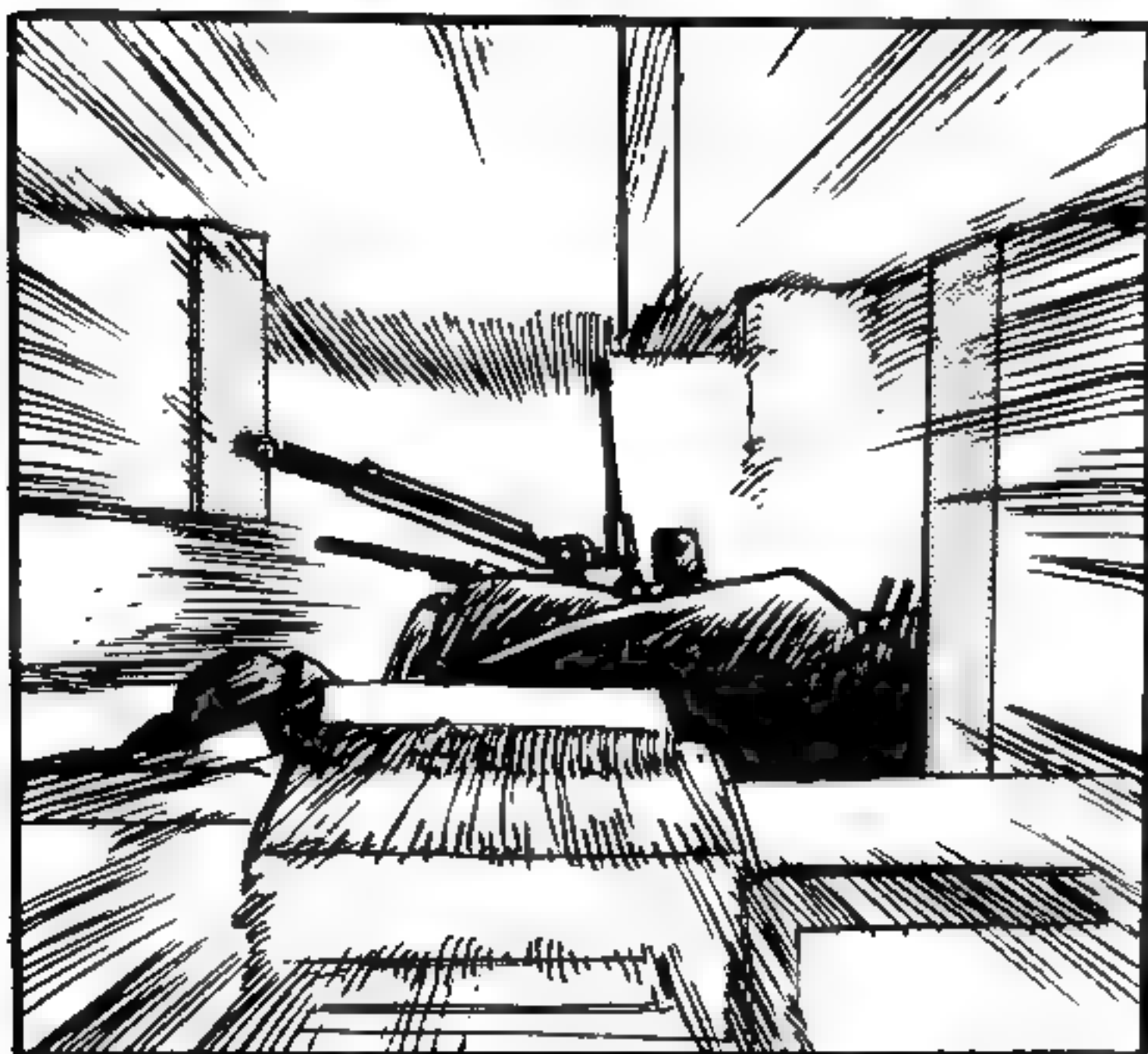
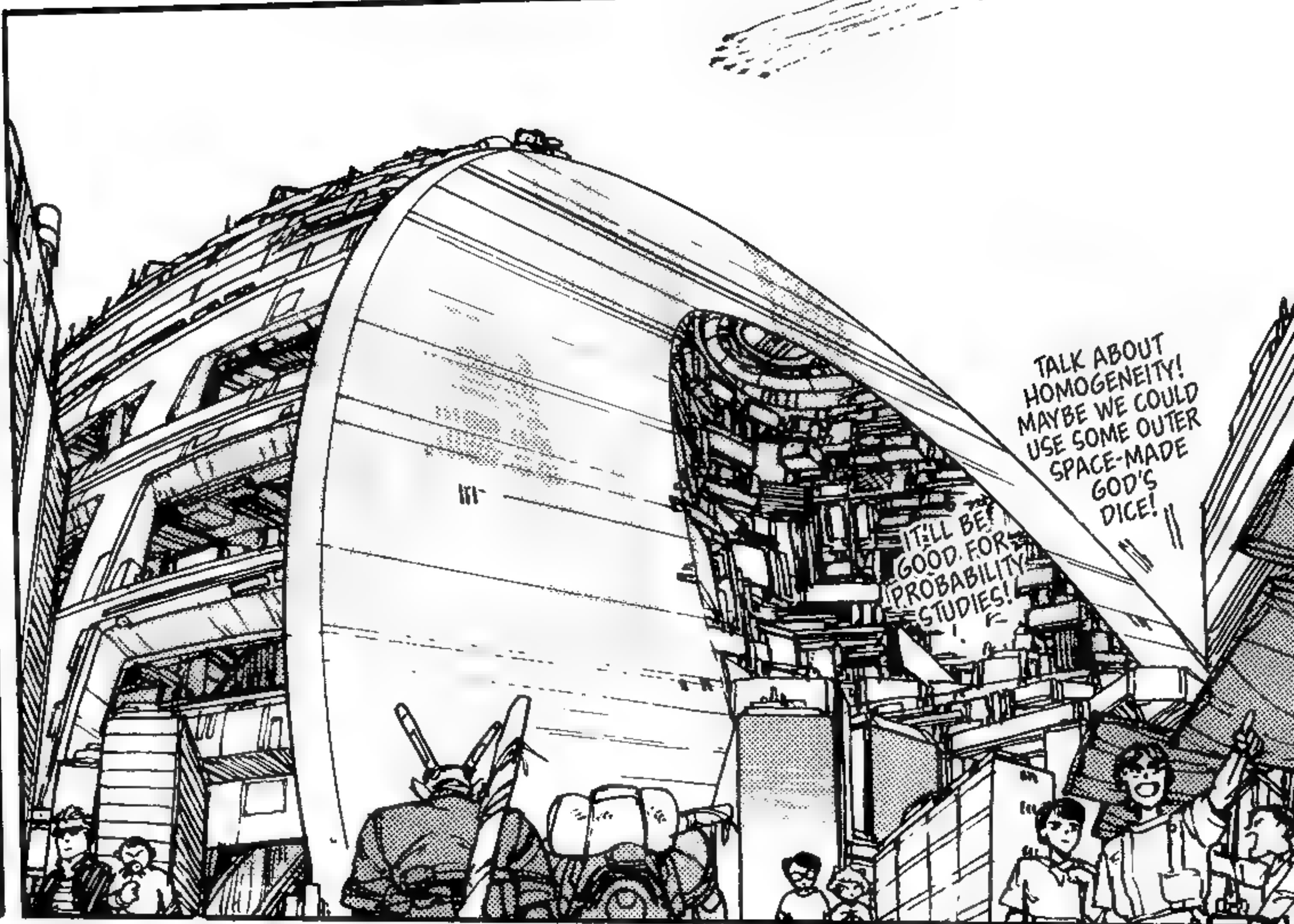
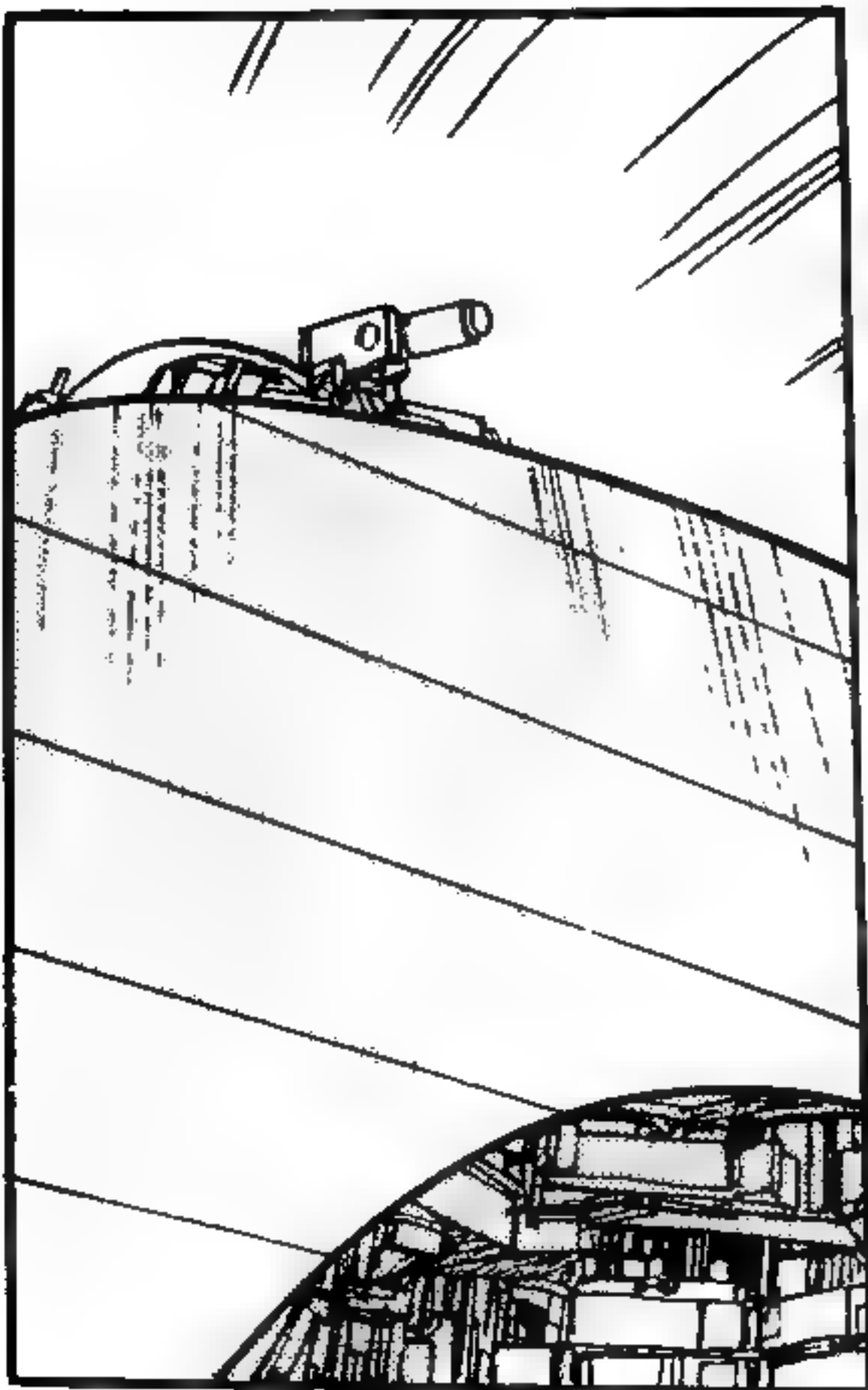




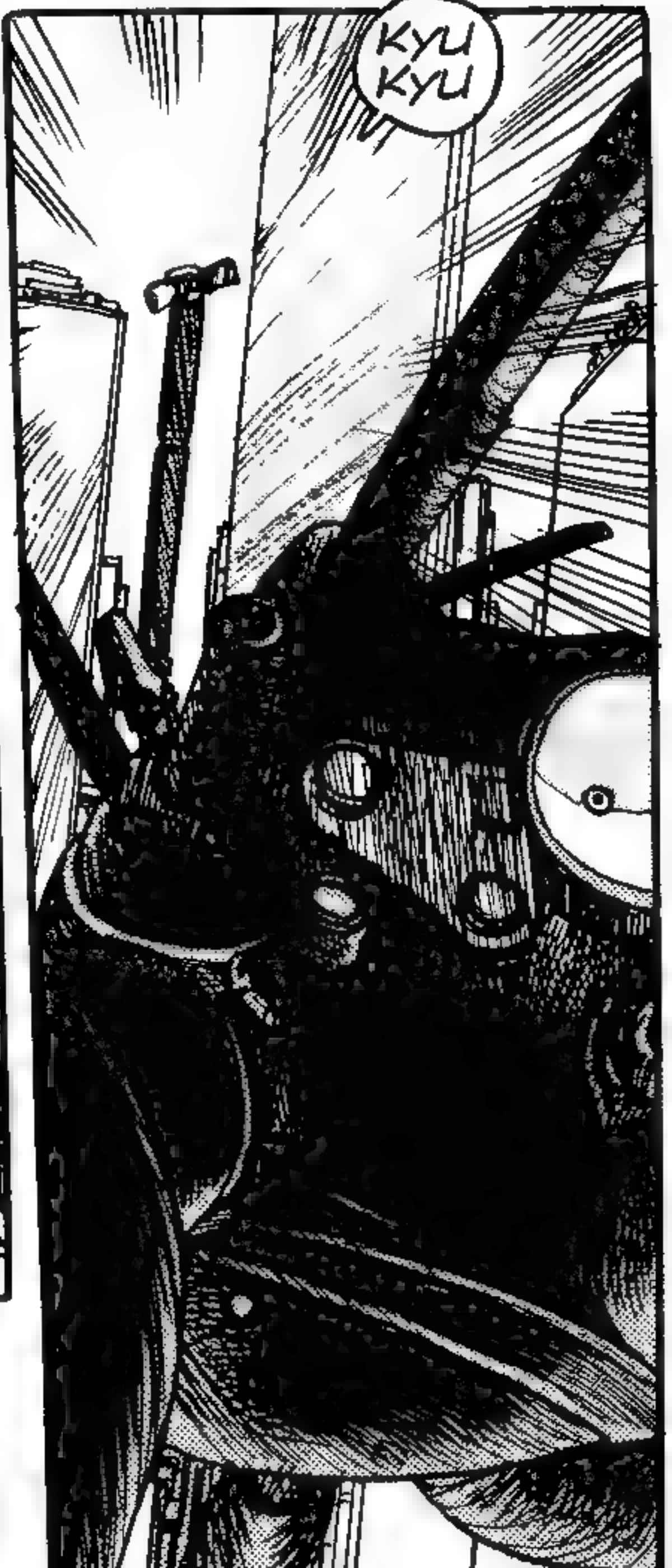
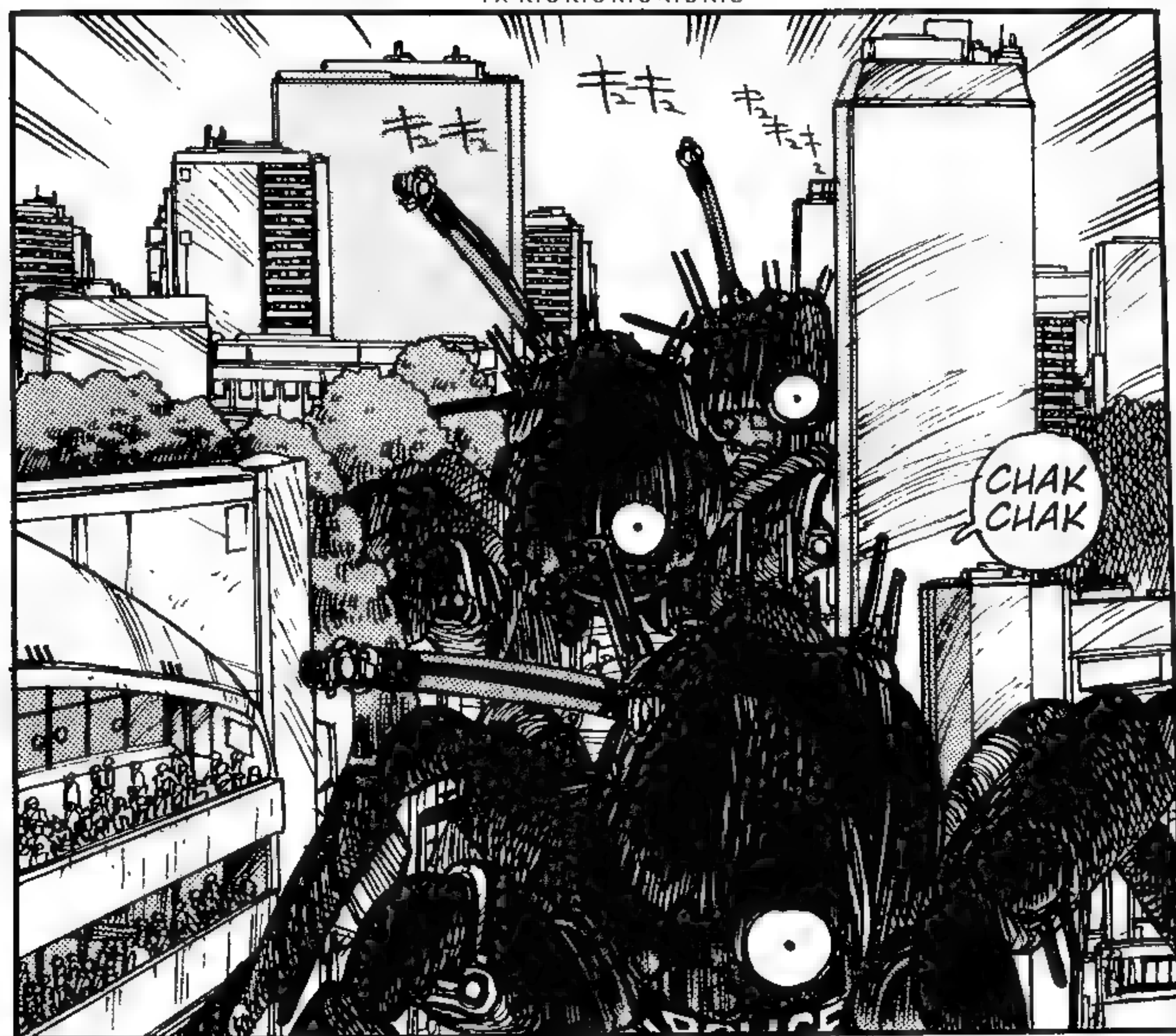








\*FX KYU KYU KYU KYU KYU

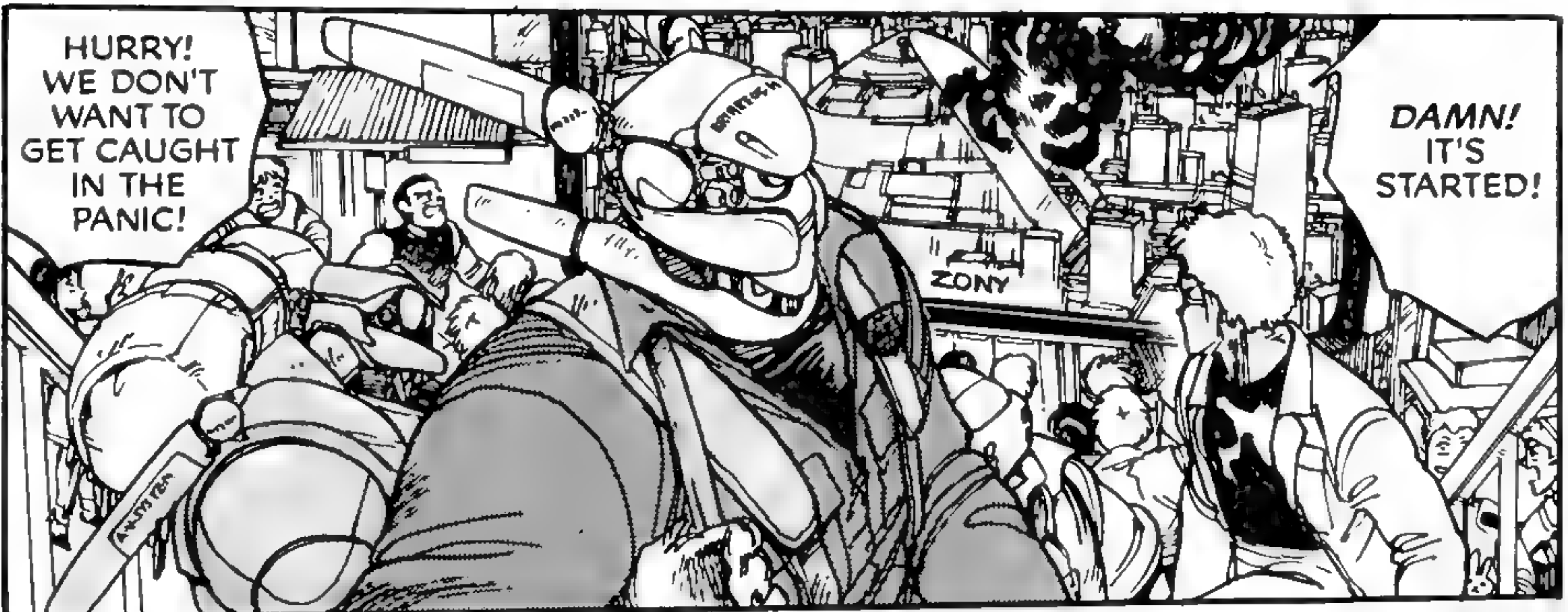
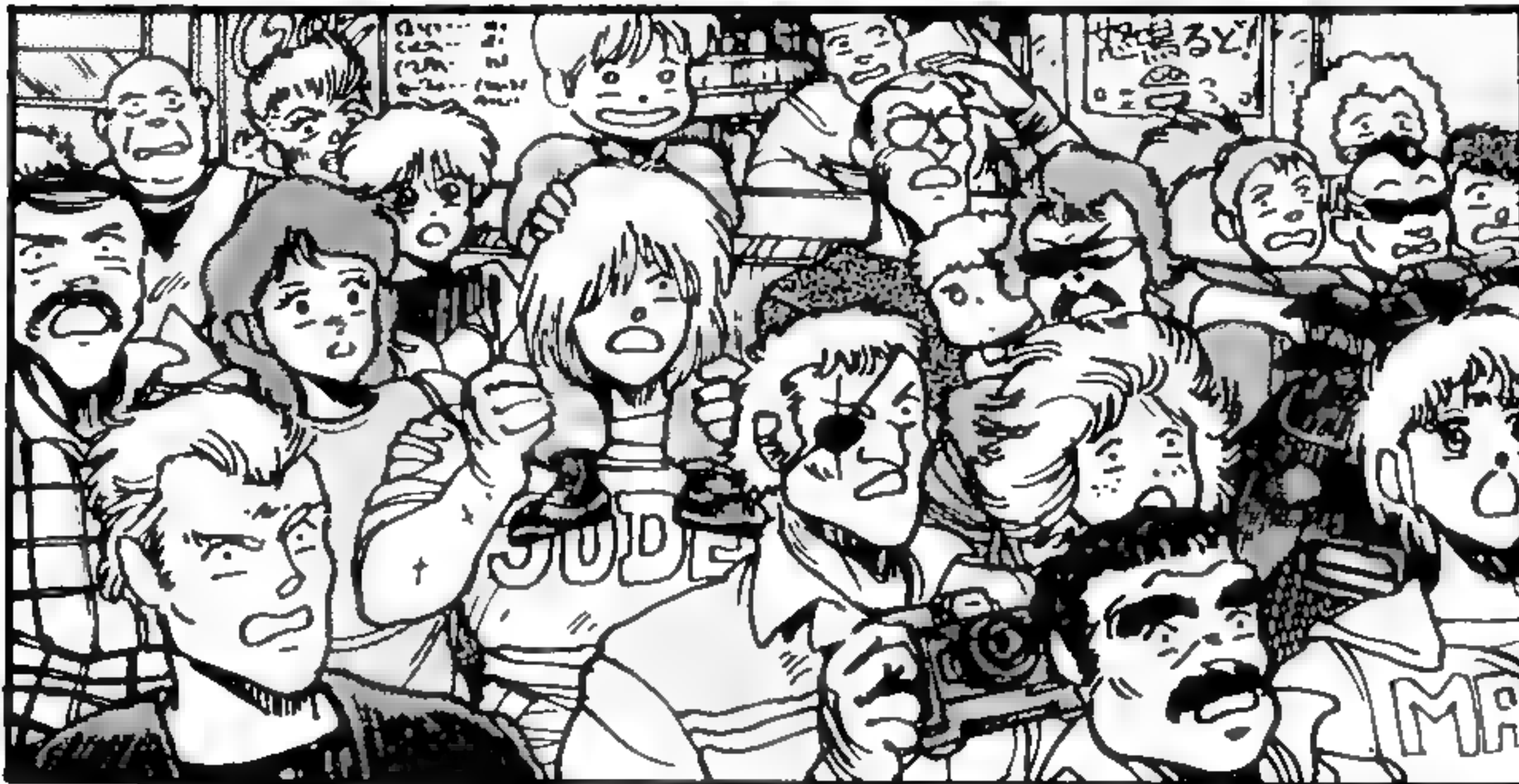






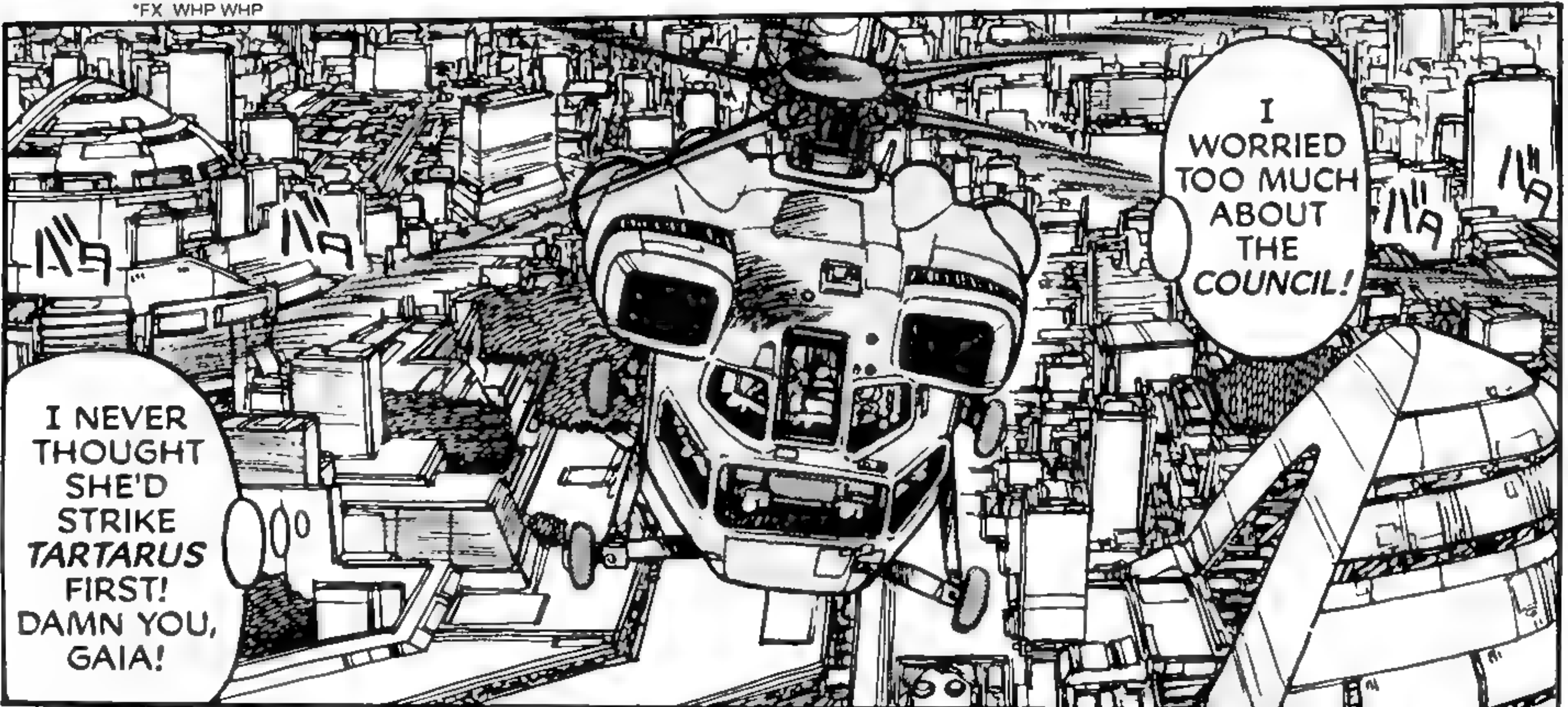
\*FX: WHKOOM



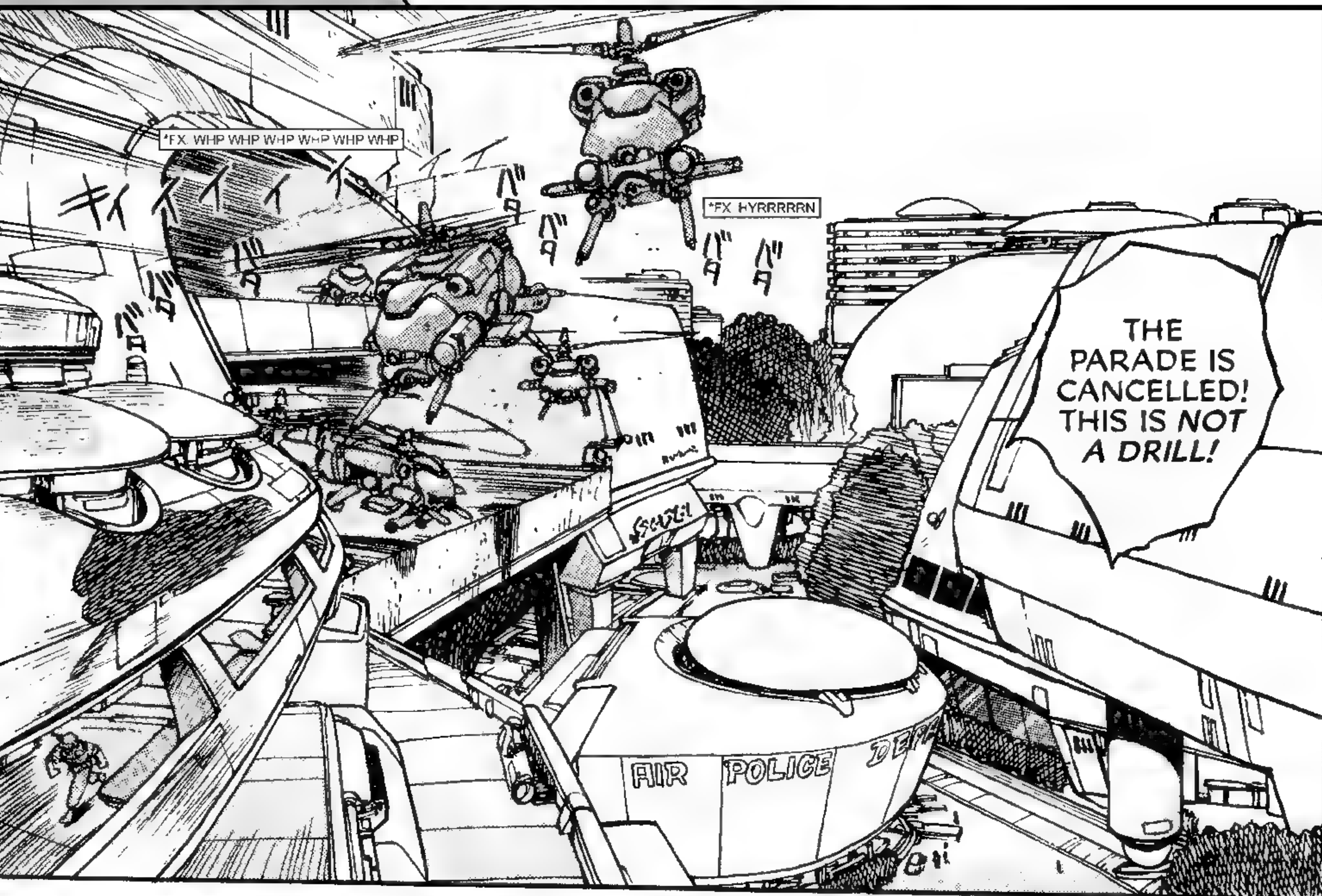


\*FX WHP WHP

\*FX WHP WHP









\*FX BWOOSH

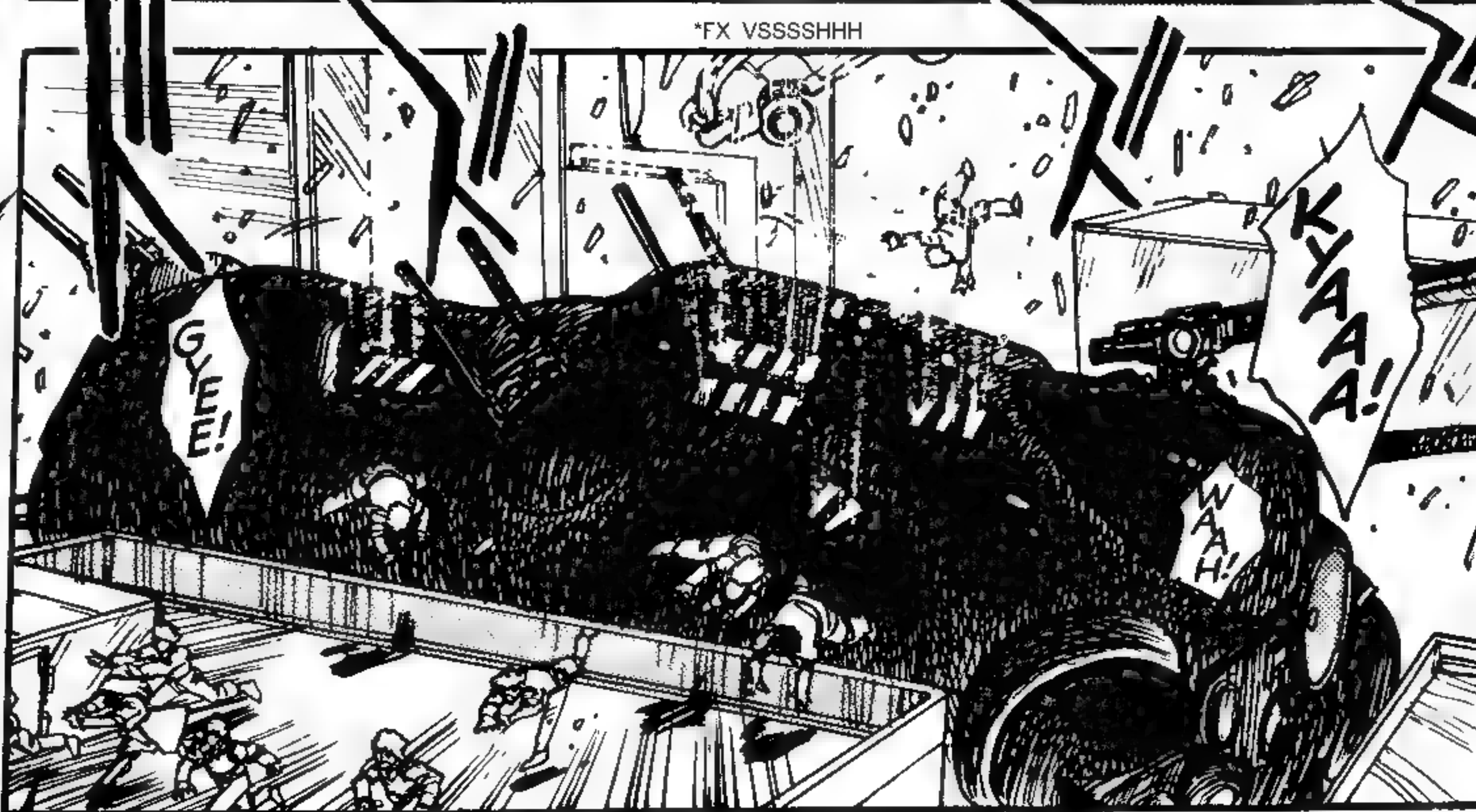


\*FX KSSH

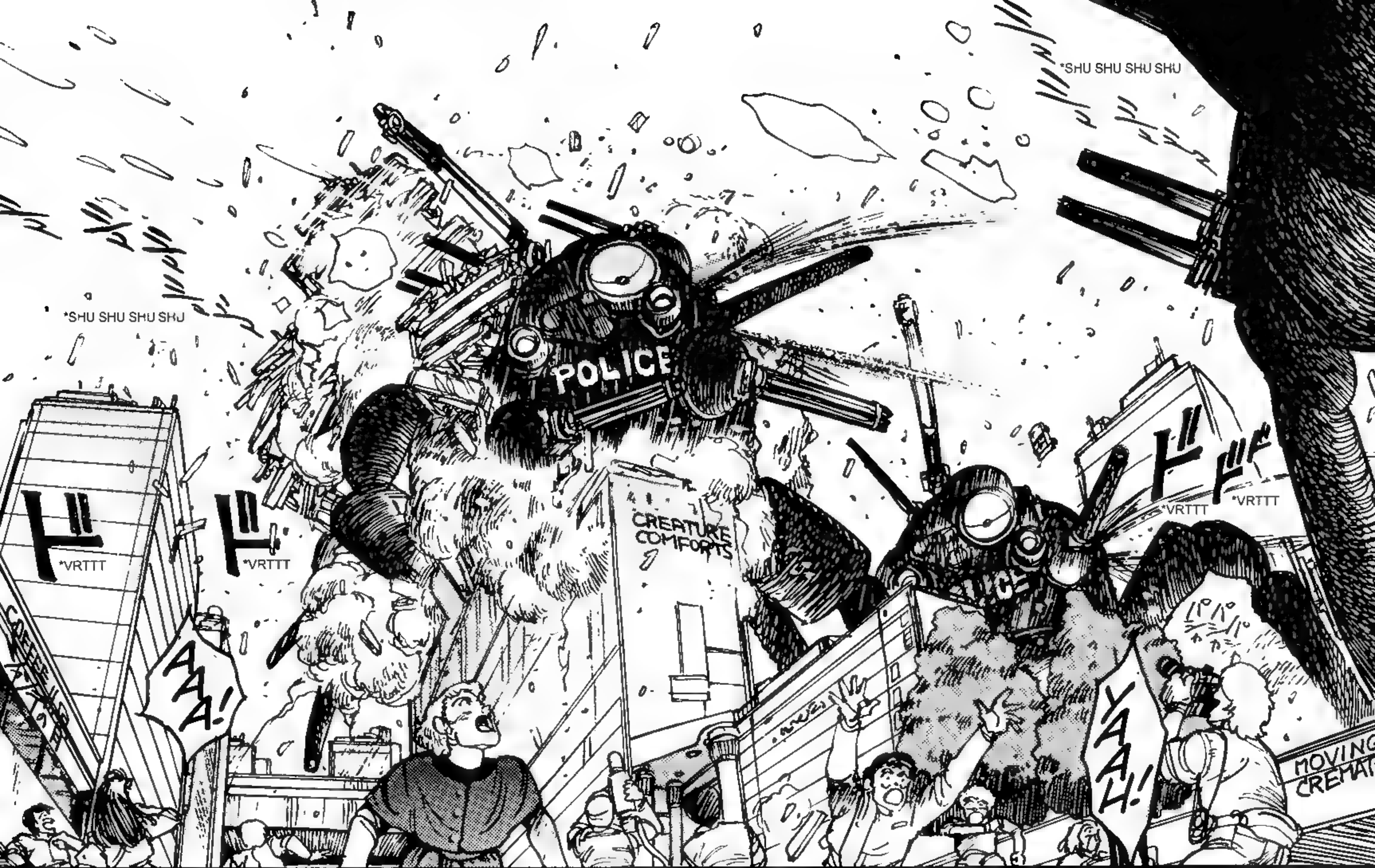
\*FX KSSH



\*FX VSSSSHHH







\*SHU SHU SHU SHU

\*SHU SHU SHU SHU

CREATURE COMFORTS

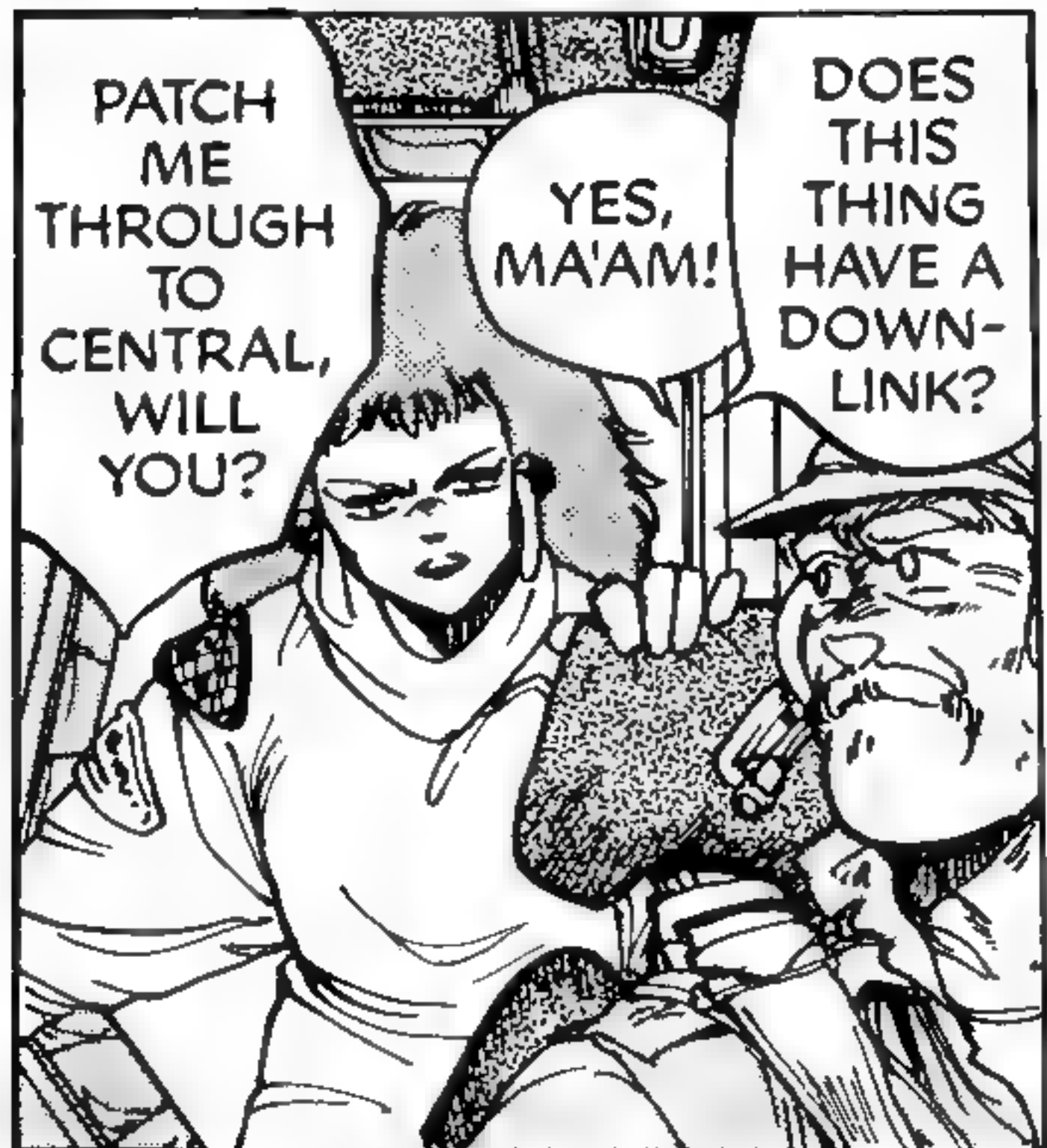
\*VRITT \*VRITT

MOVING CREMAT

\*FX PKOW VRRRT

\*FX BAM

\*FX KSHAK KSHAK KSHAK



PATCH ME THROUGH TO CENTRAL, WILL YOU?

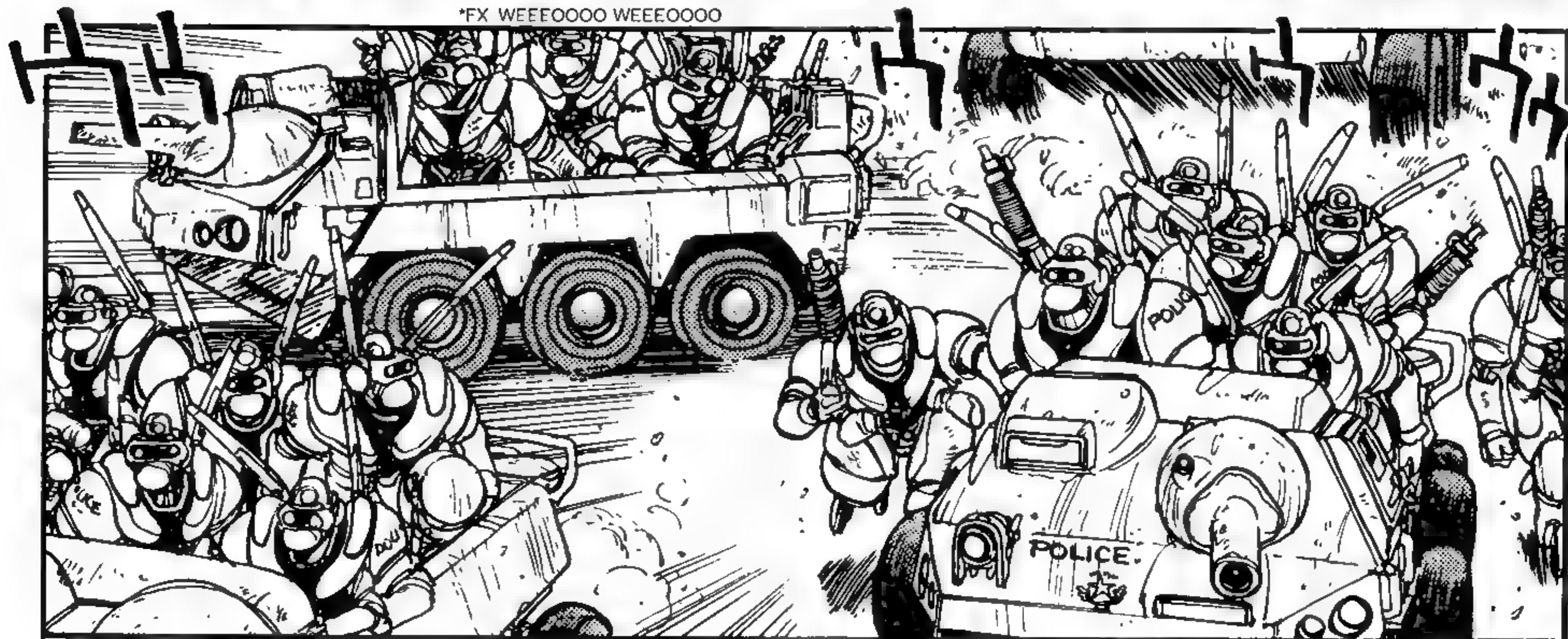
YES, MA'AM!

DOES THIS THING HAVE A DOWN-LINK?



....  
....

\*FX WEEEOOOO WEEEOOOO







SHELLED?!

WE'VE BEEN SHELLED!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

\*FX REEET REEET REEET



BOOST THE DOMINANCE LOADING FOR DELTA WAVES! DON'T LET THEM HEAR ANY SCREAMS OR EXPLOSIONS!

ACTIVATE THE SHOCK SUPPRESSORS IN THE NURSERY!

THAT DAMNED GAIA! WHY DOES SHE WANT TO SMASH TARTARUS?!

\*FX PACHI PACHI



THE BOMBARDMENT PATTERN'S CLOSING IN ON THE CORE--FIVE METERS A SECOND!

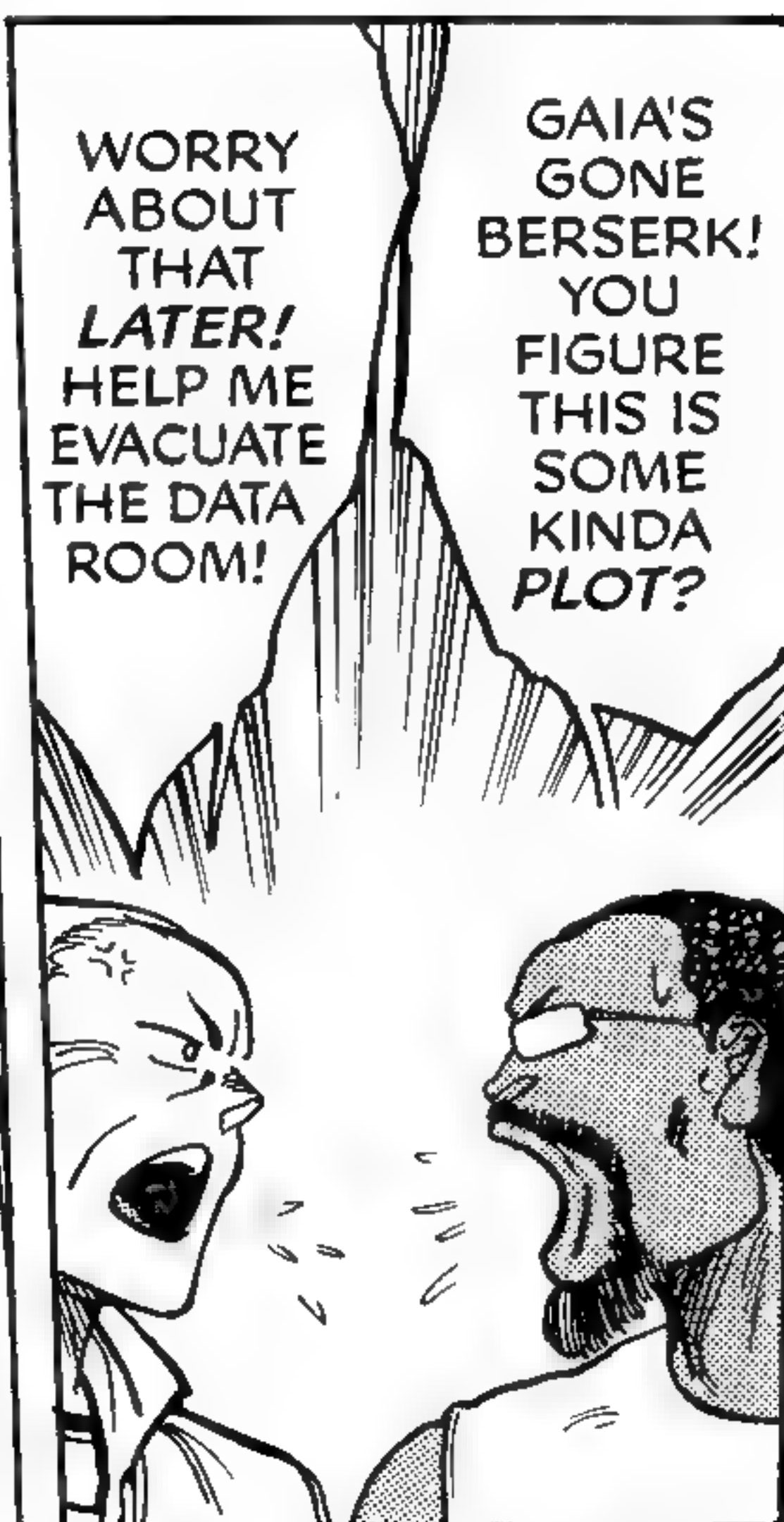
NO GOOD. BREACHED!

WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE-WALLS?

THE IMPACT SITES ARE TOO WIDELY DISPERSED... WE CAN'T FIGHT ALL THE FIRES AT ONCE!

\*WHKOOM

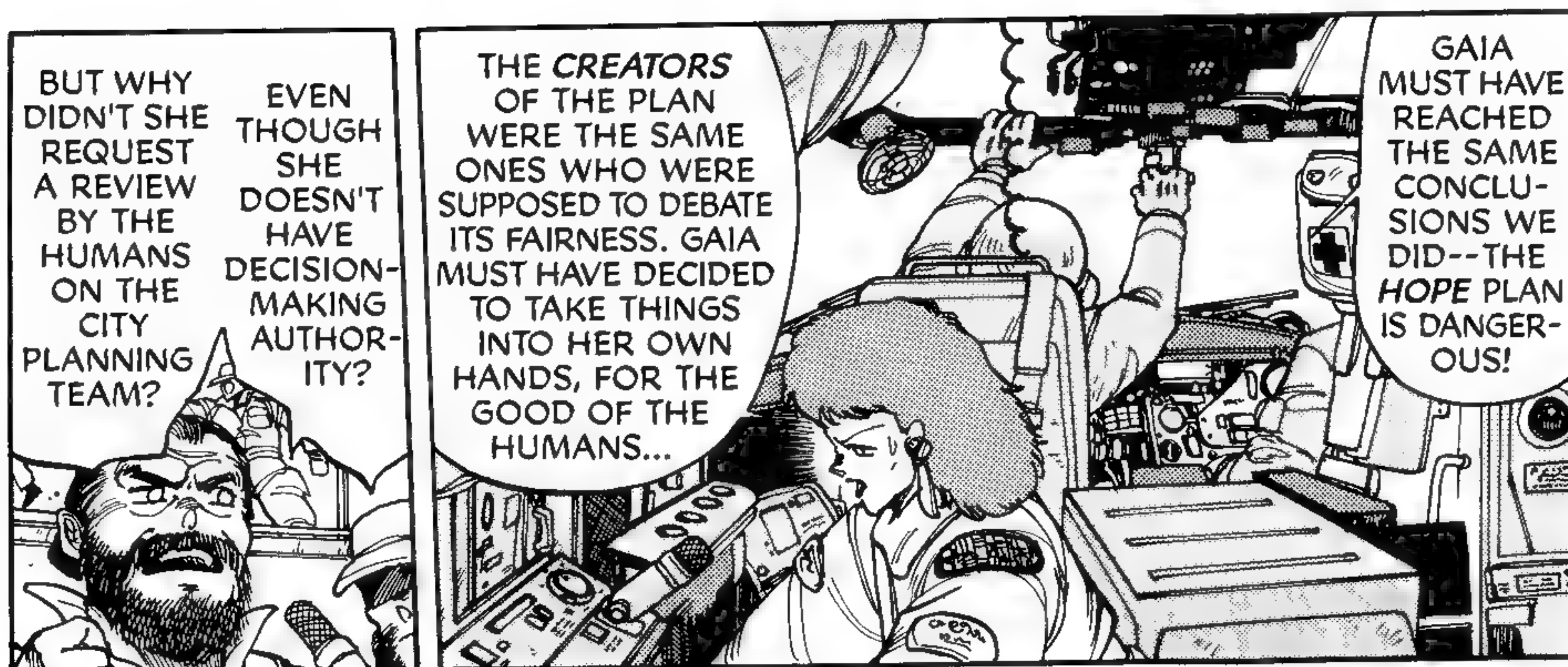
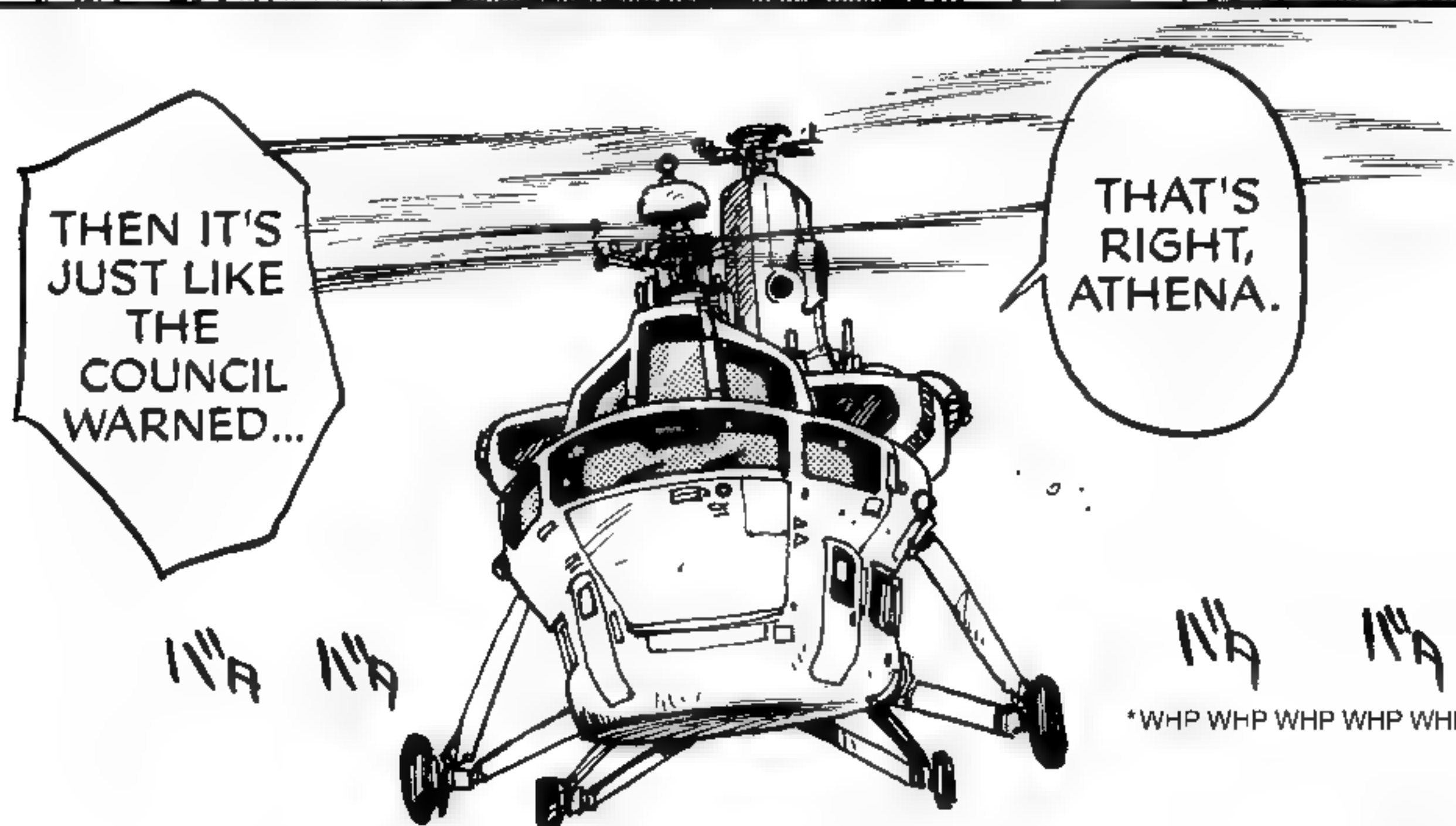
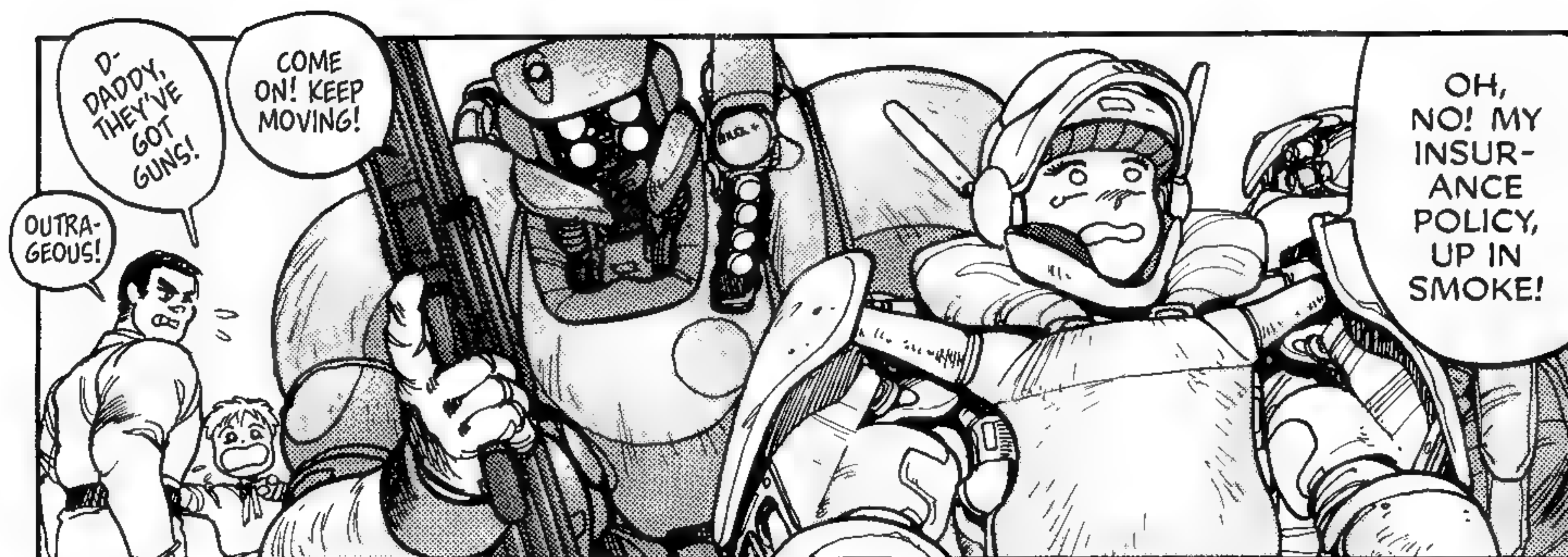
\*WHRAM



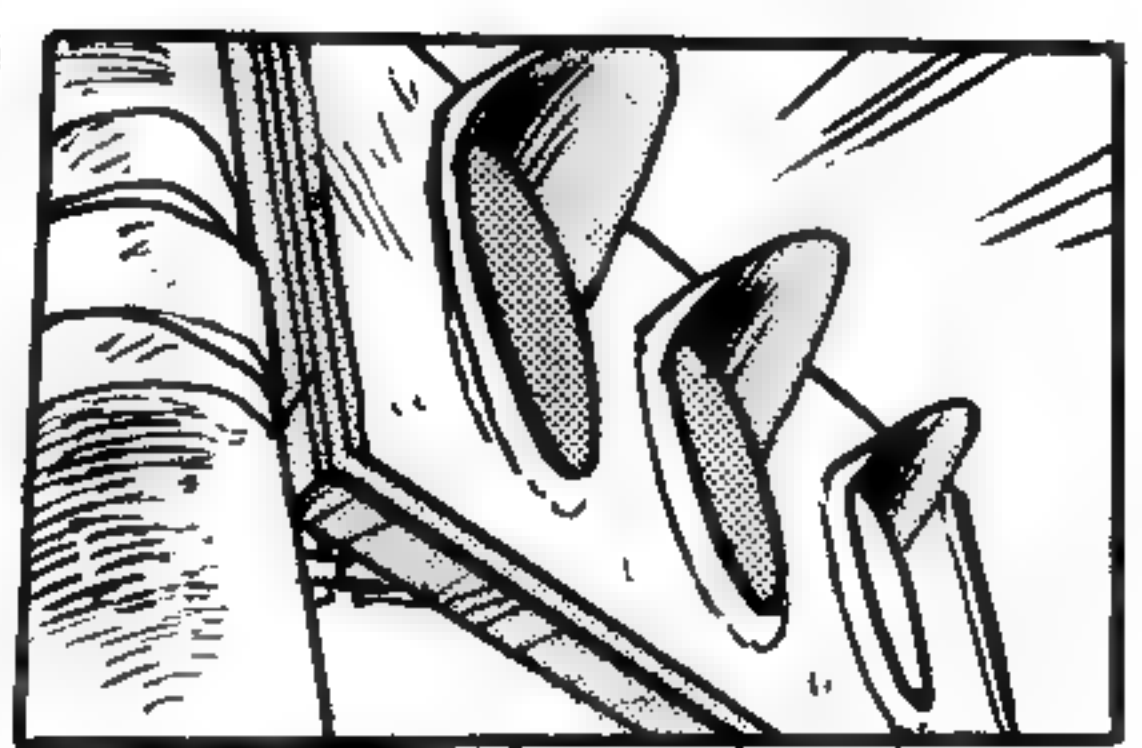
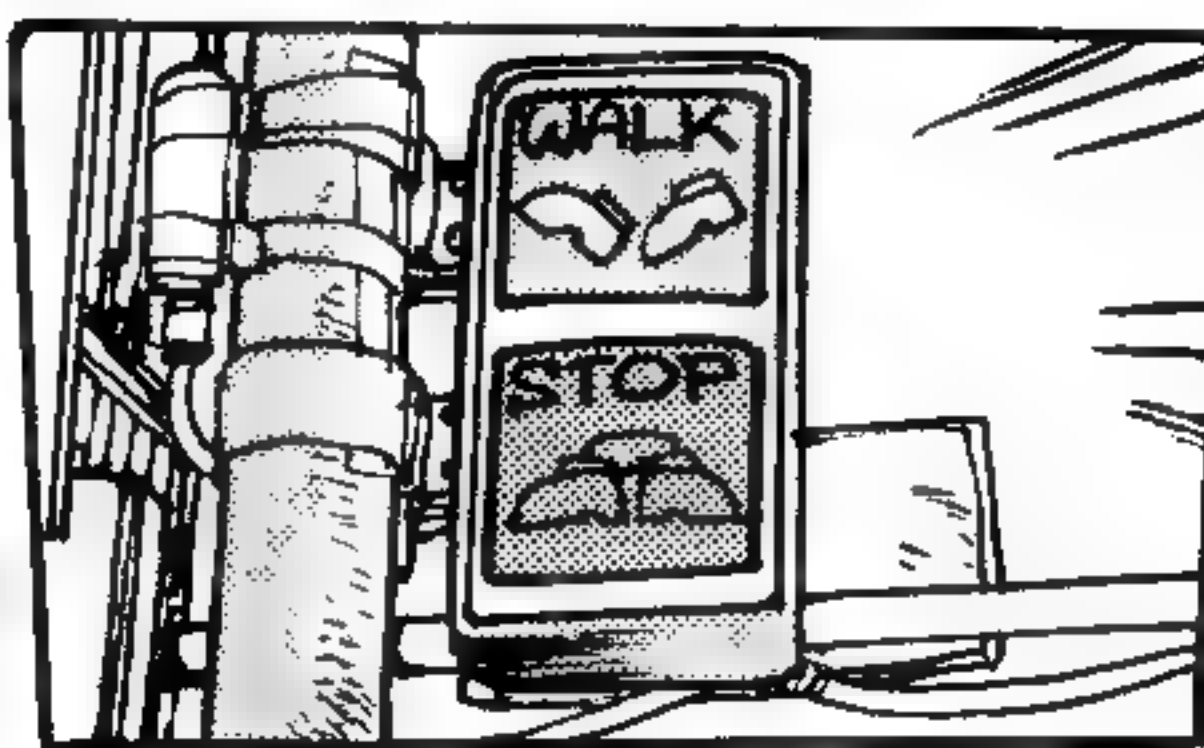
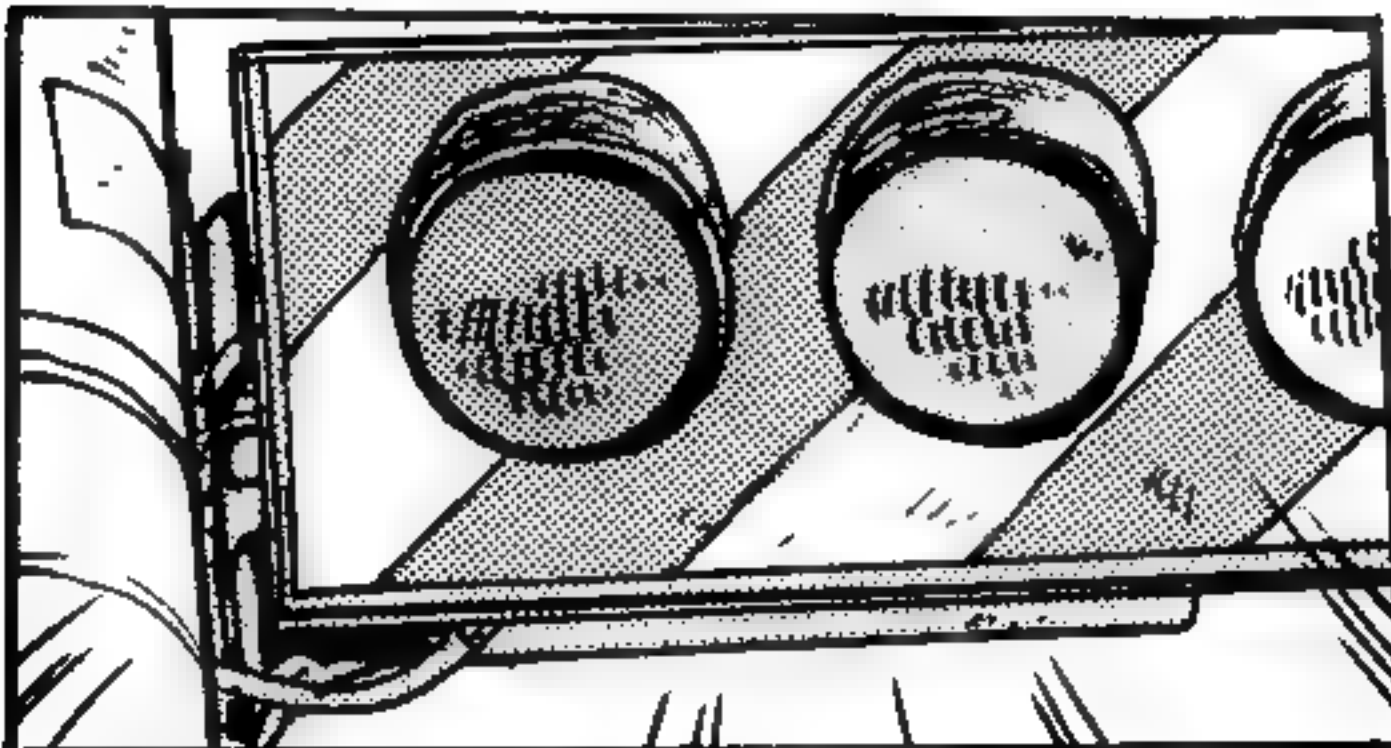
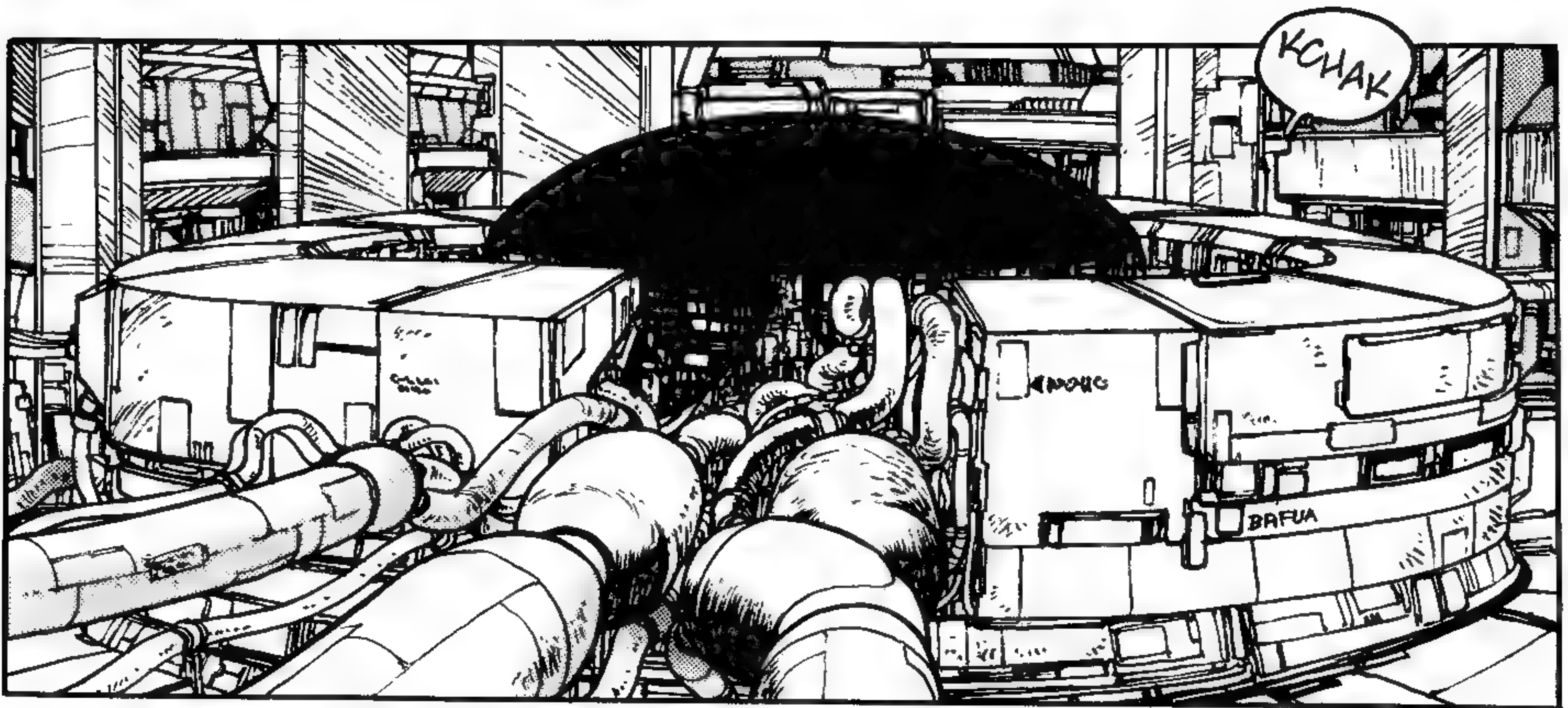
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! HELP ME EVACUATE THE DATA ROOM!

GAIA'S GONE BERSERK! YOU FIGURE THIS IS SOME KINDA PLOT?









\*FX BEEP BEEP

\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

\*FX HONK HONK



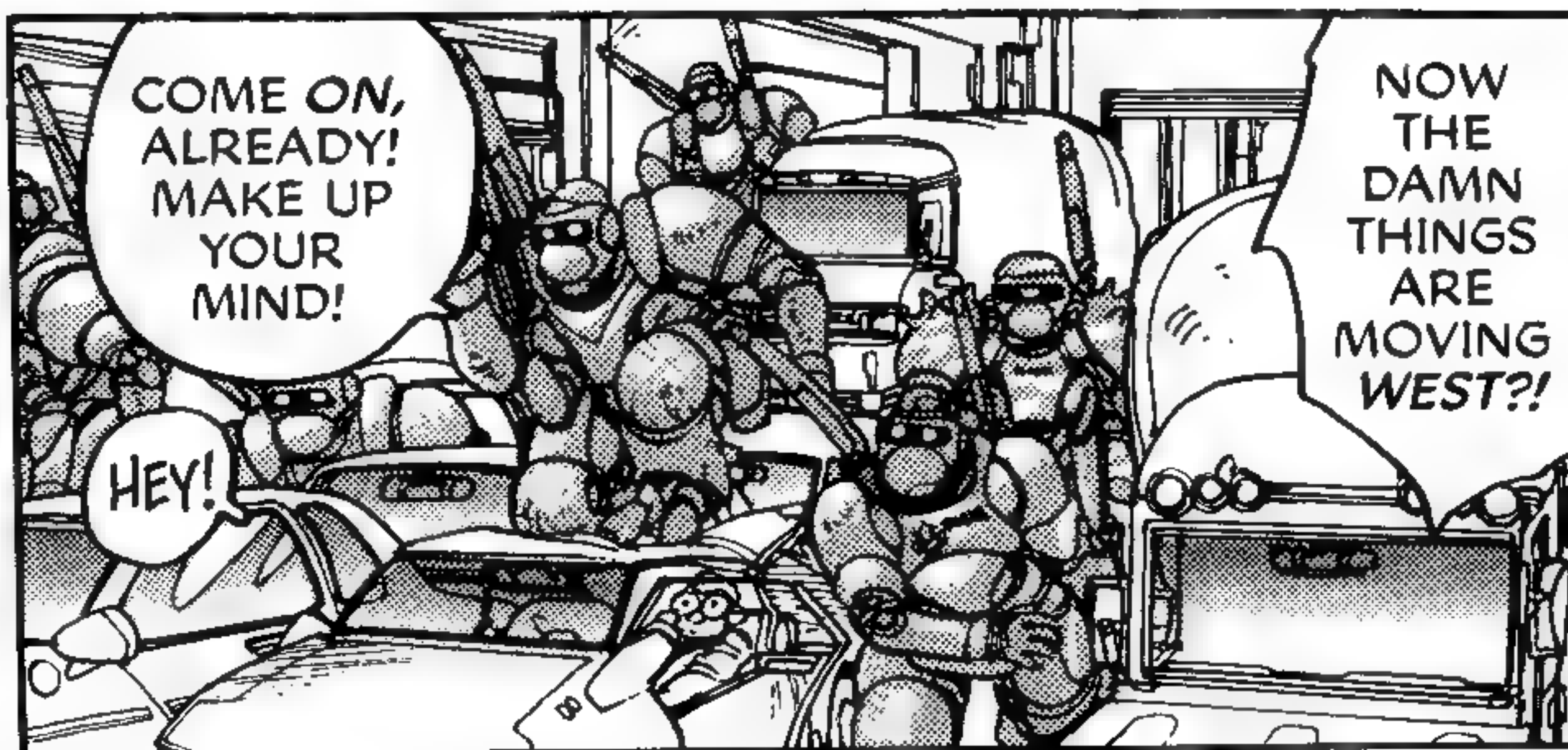
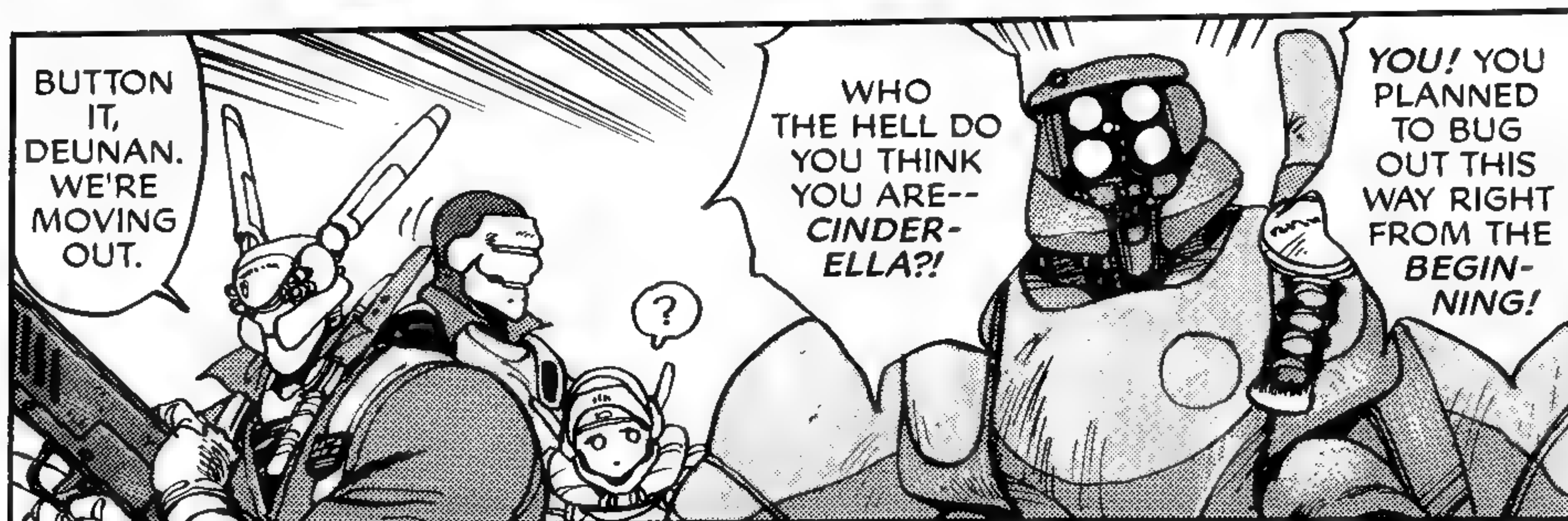
\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP

\*FX WEEEEOOOO

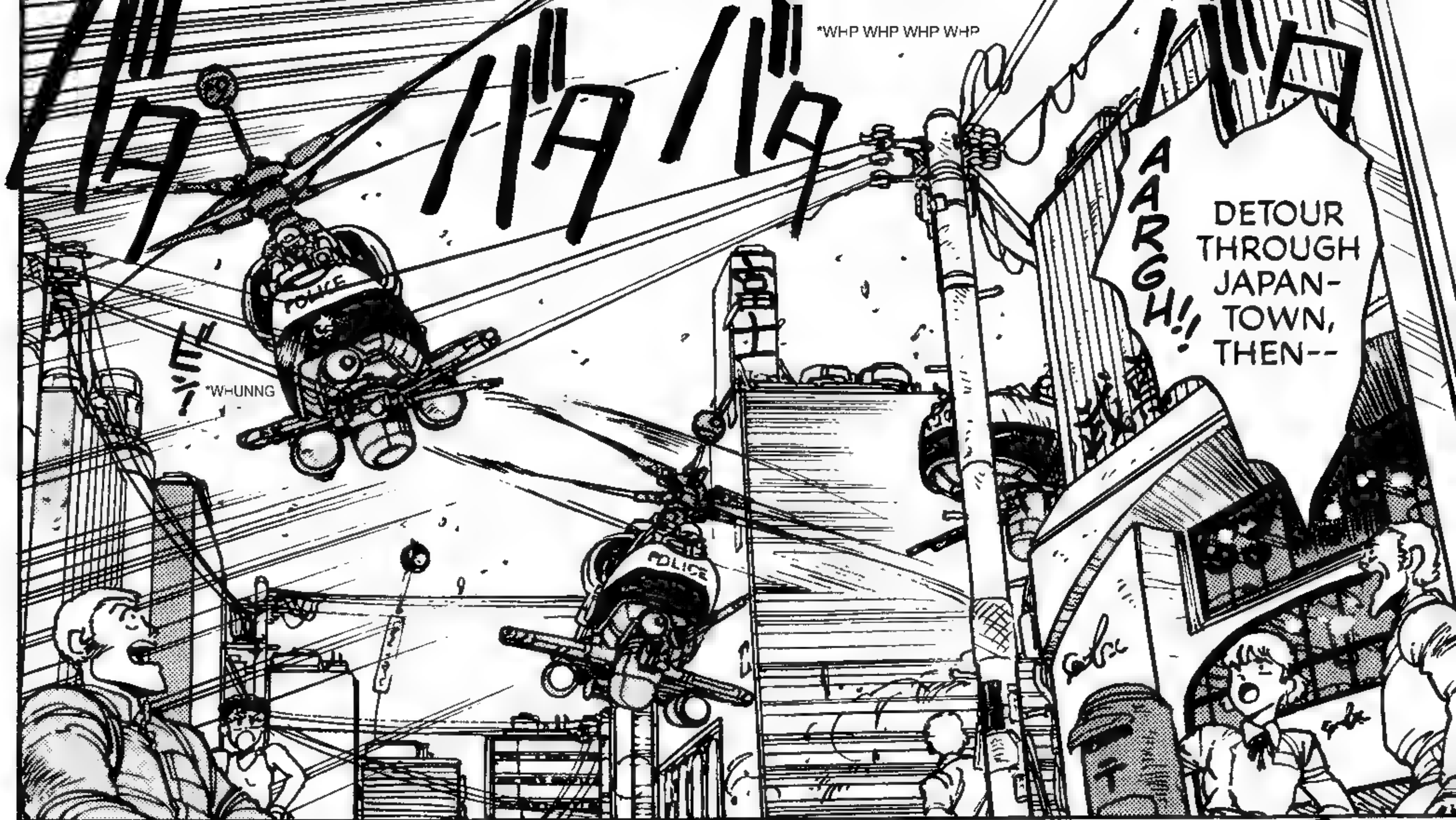
\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP





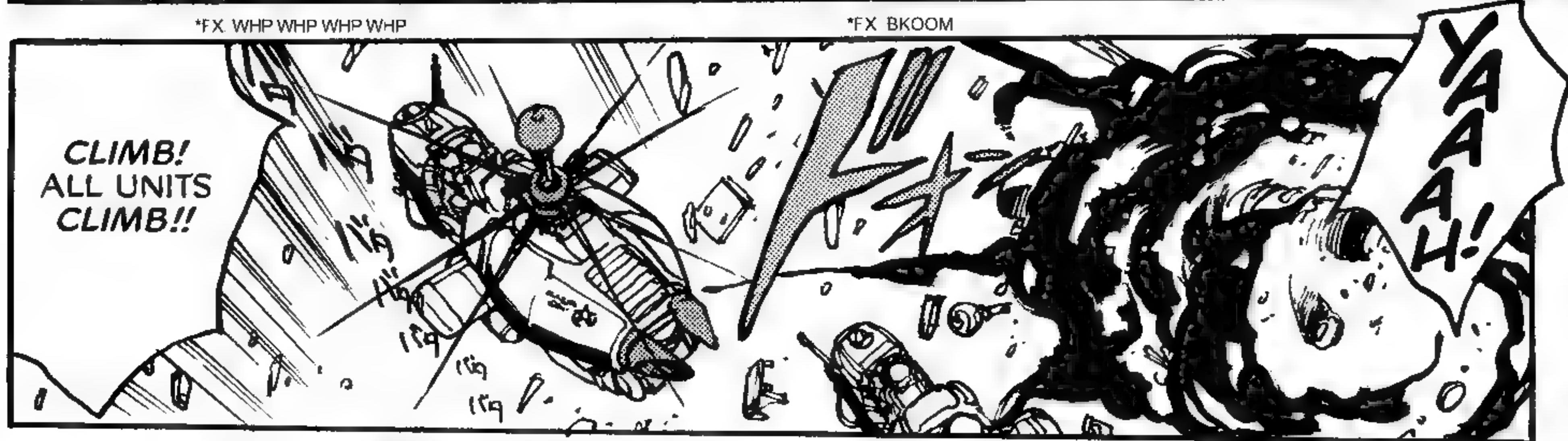




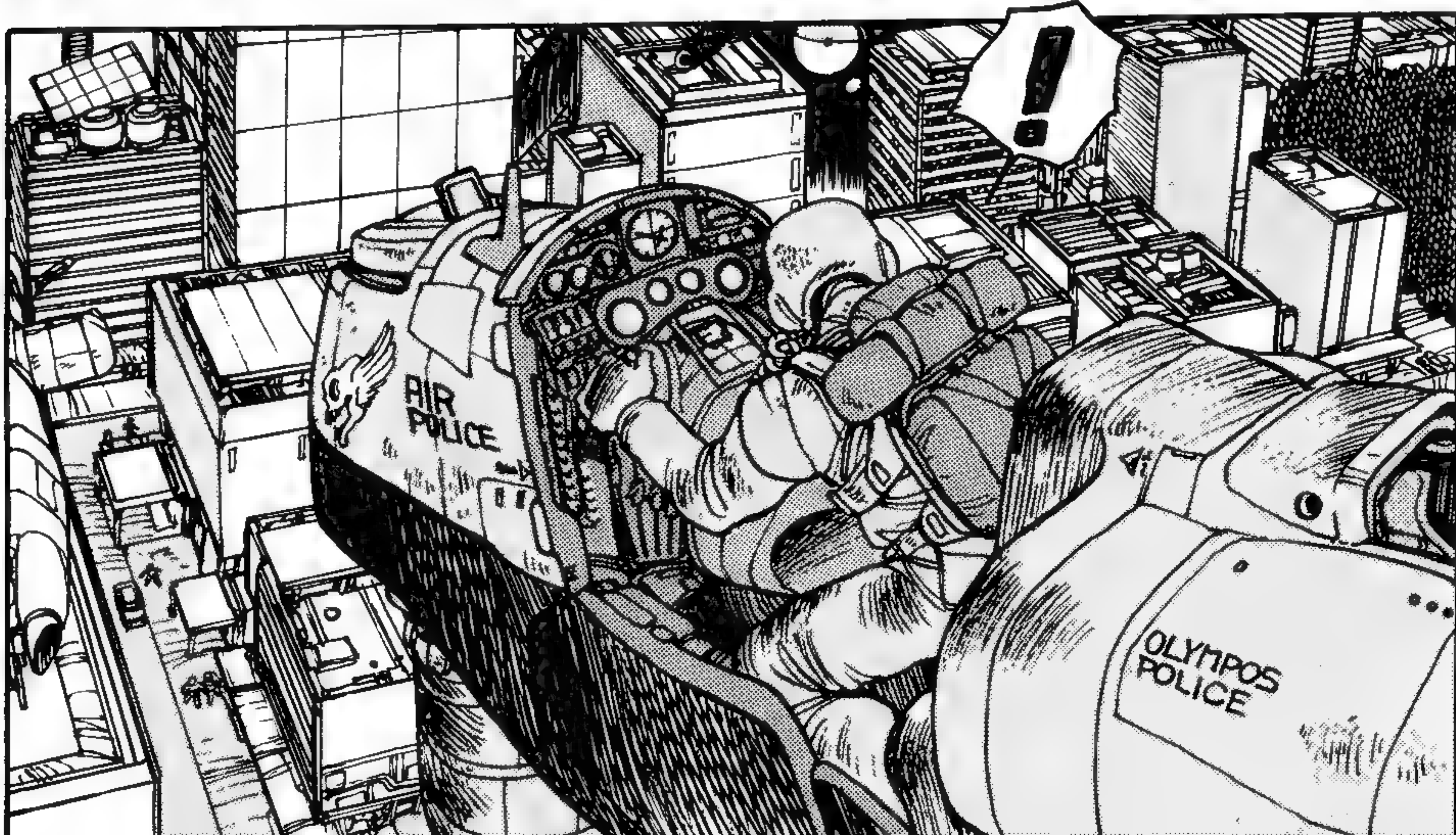
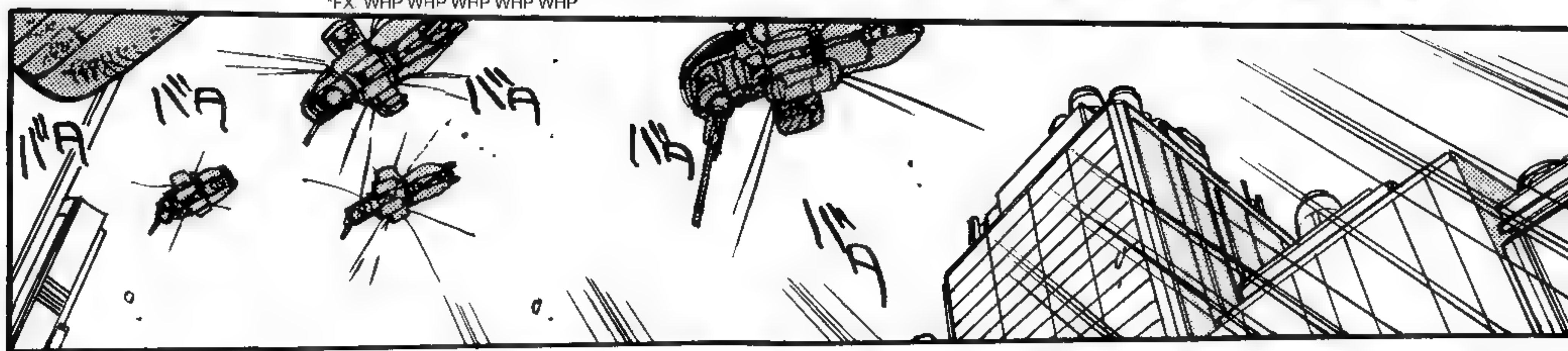


\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP

\*FX BKOOM



\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

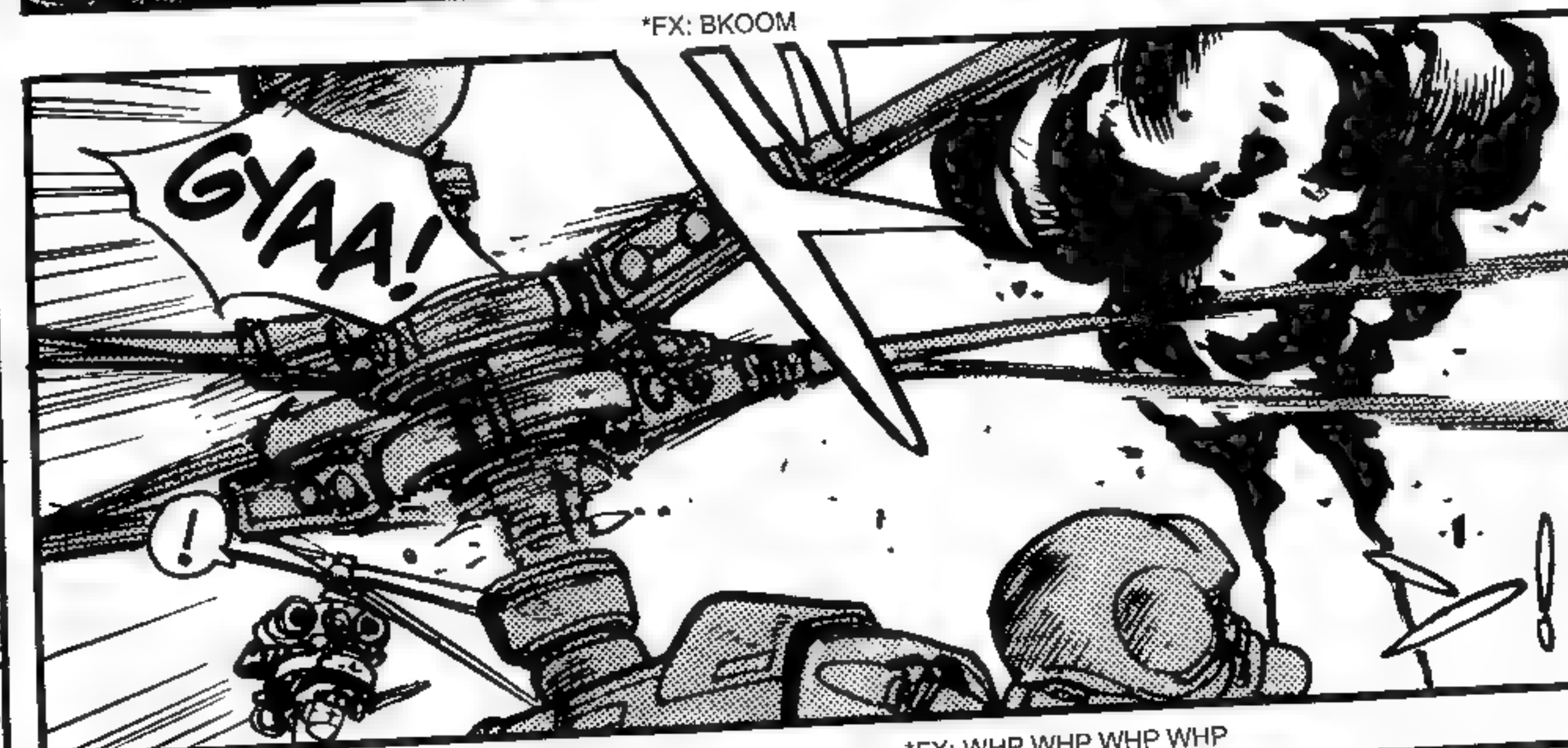
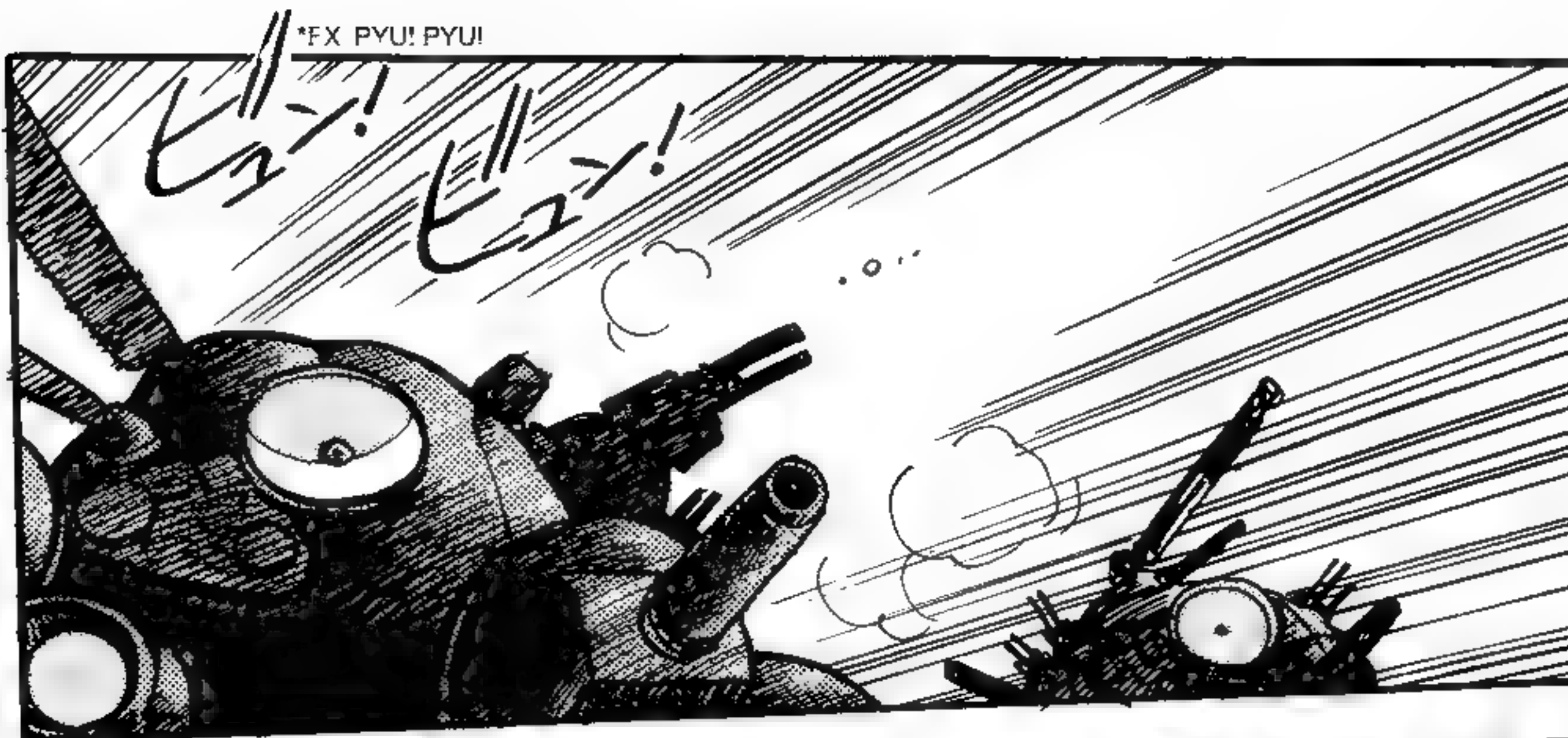




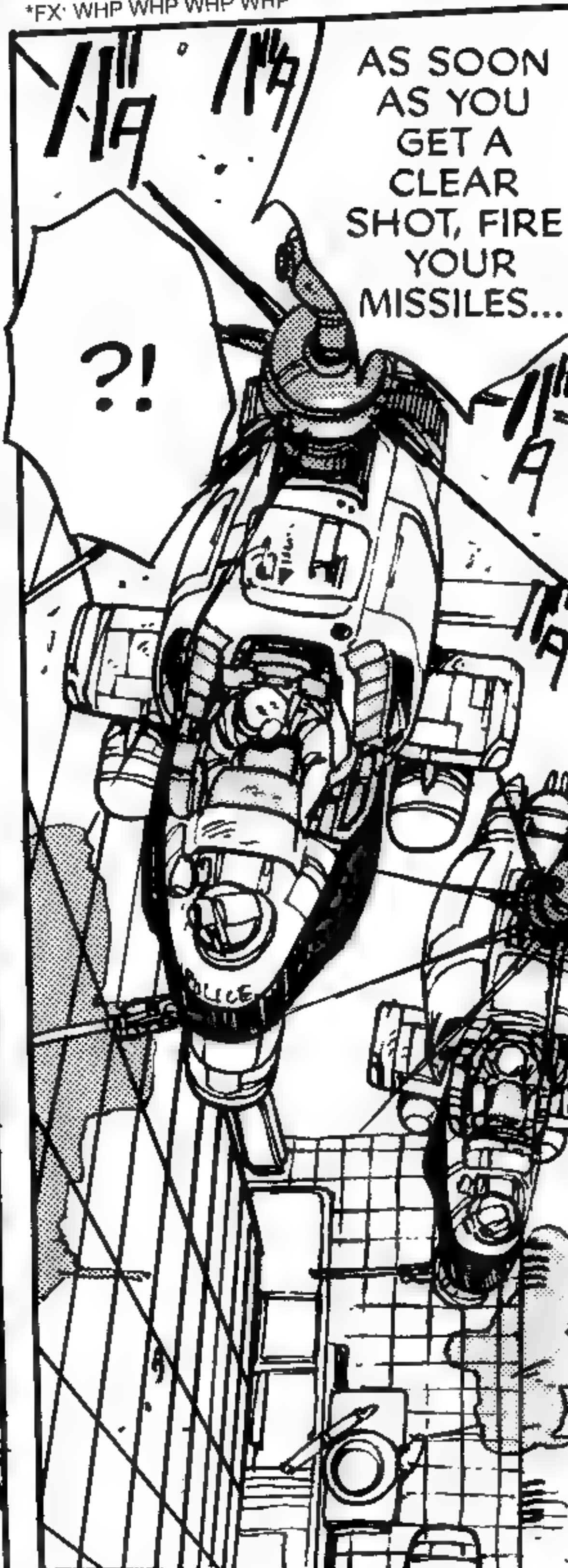


\*FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

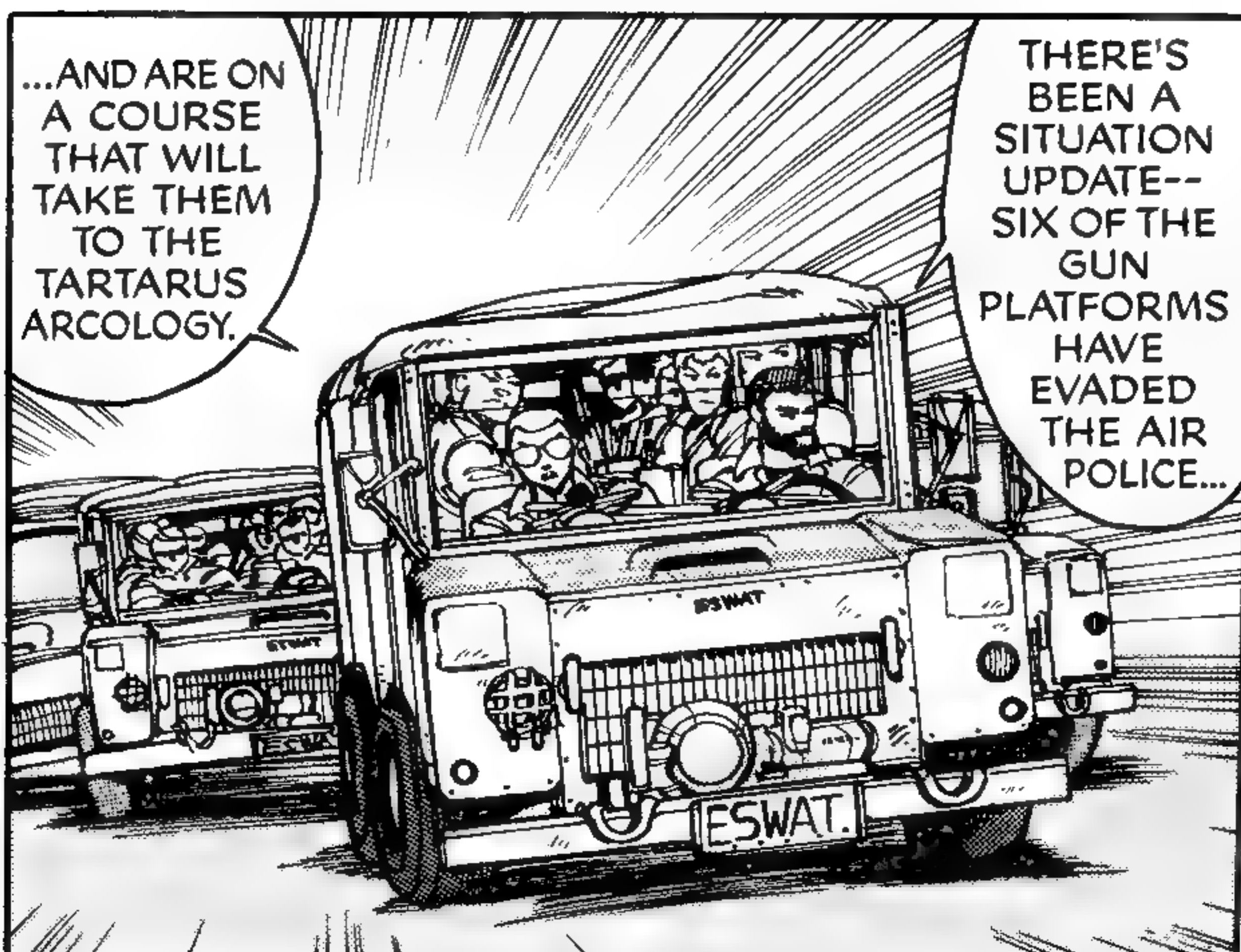
\*FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP



\*FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP

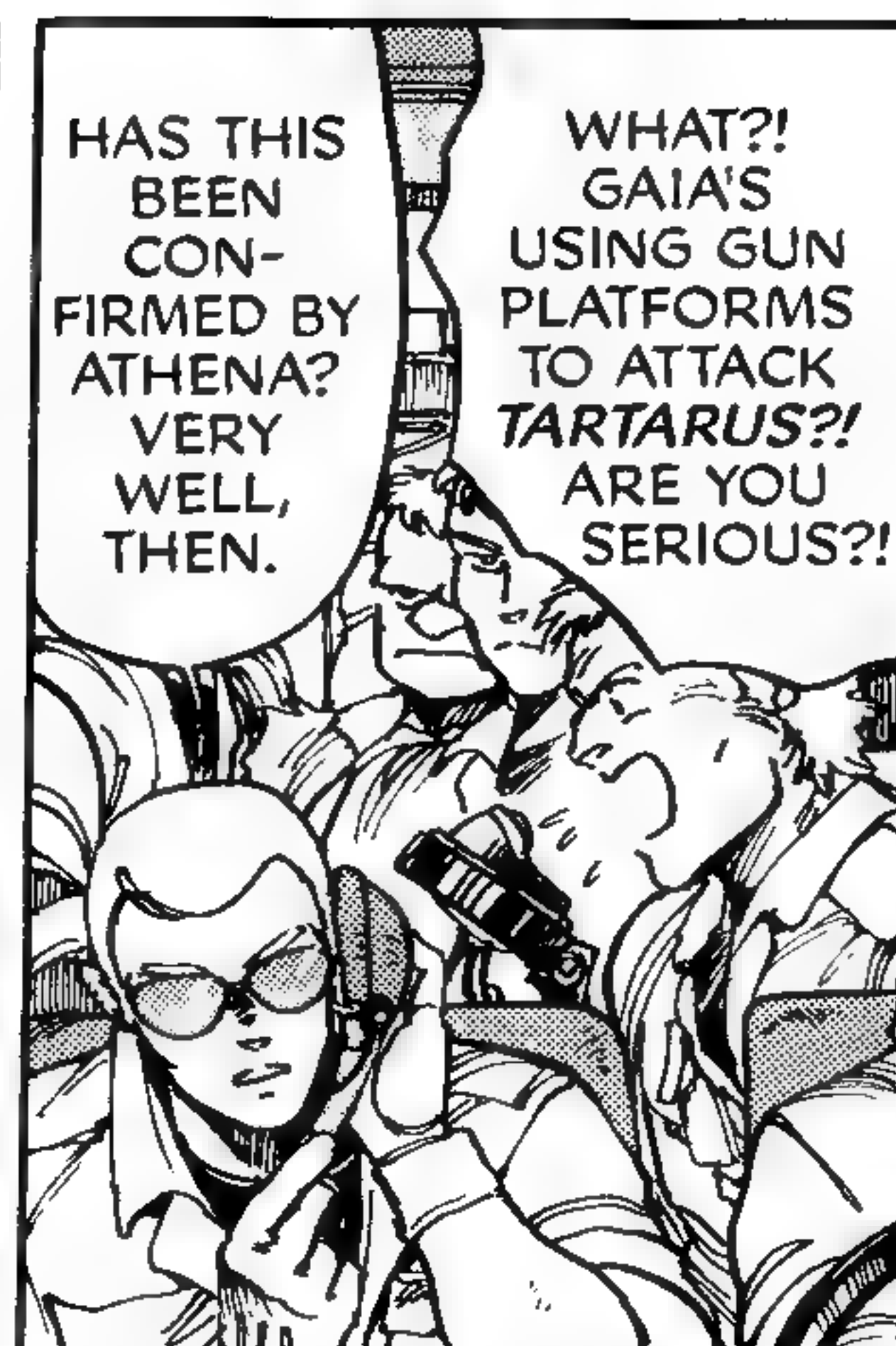






...AND ARE ON  
A COURSE  
THAT WILL  
TAKE THEM  
TO THE  
TARTARUS  
ARCOLOGY.

THERE'S  
BEEN A  
SITUATION  
UPDATE--  
SIX OF THE  
GUN  
PLATFORMS  
HAVE  
EVADED  
THE AIR  
POLICE...



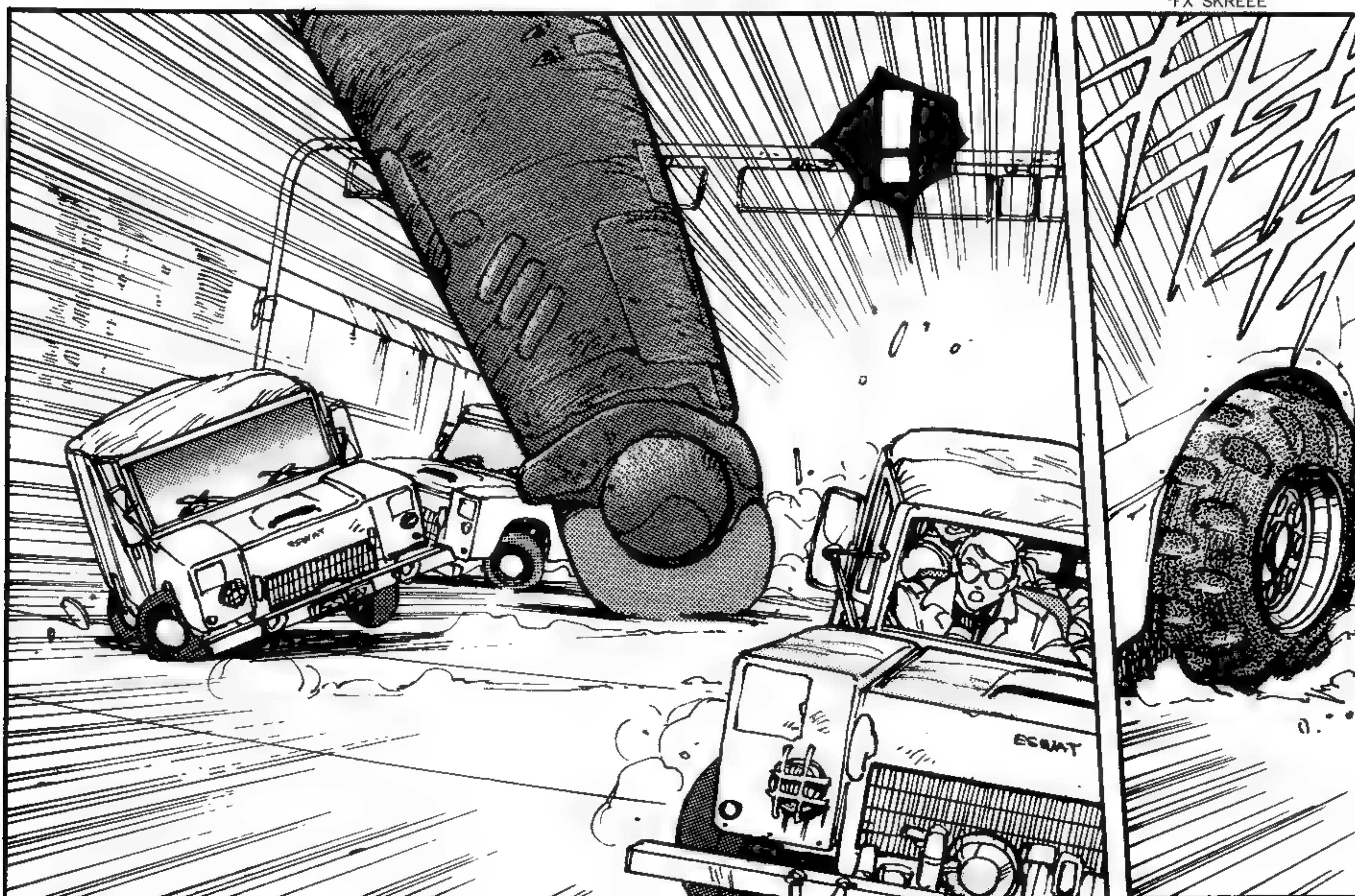
HAS THIS  
BEEN  
CON-  
FIRMED BY  
ATHENA?  
VERY  
WELL,  
THEN.

WHAT?!  
GAI'A'S  
USING GUN  
PLATFORMS  
TO ATTACK  
TARTARUS?!  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?!



SQUAD ONE COMES WITH ME  
TO TAKE OUT GAI'A'S OPTICAL  
COMMUNICATIONS TOWER.  
SQUAD TWO, GIVE US FIRE  
SUPPORT. THREE, CORDON  
THE AREA. FOUR, SET UP  
NEAR THE ENTRANCES TO  
THE TARTARUS BLOCK--  
WHEN THE PLATFORMS  
SHOW, KNOCK OUT THEIR  
ANTENNAS.  
FIVE--

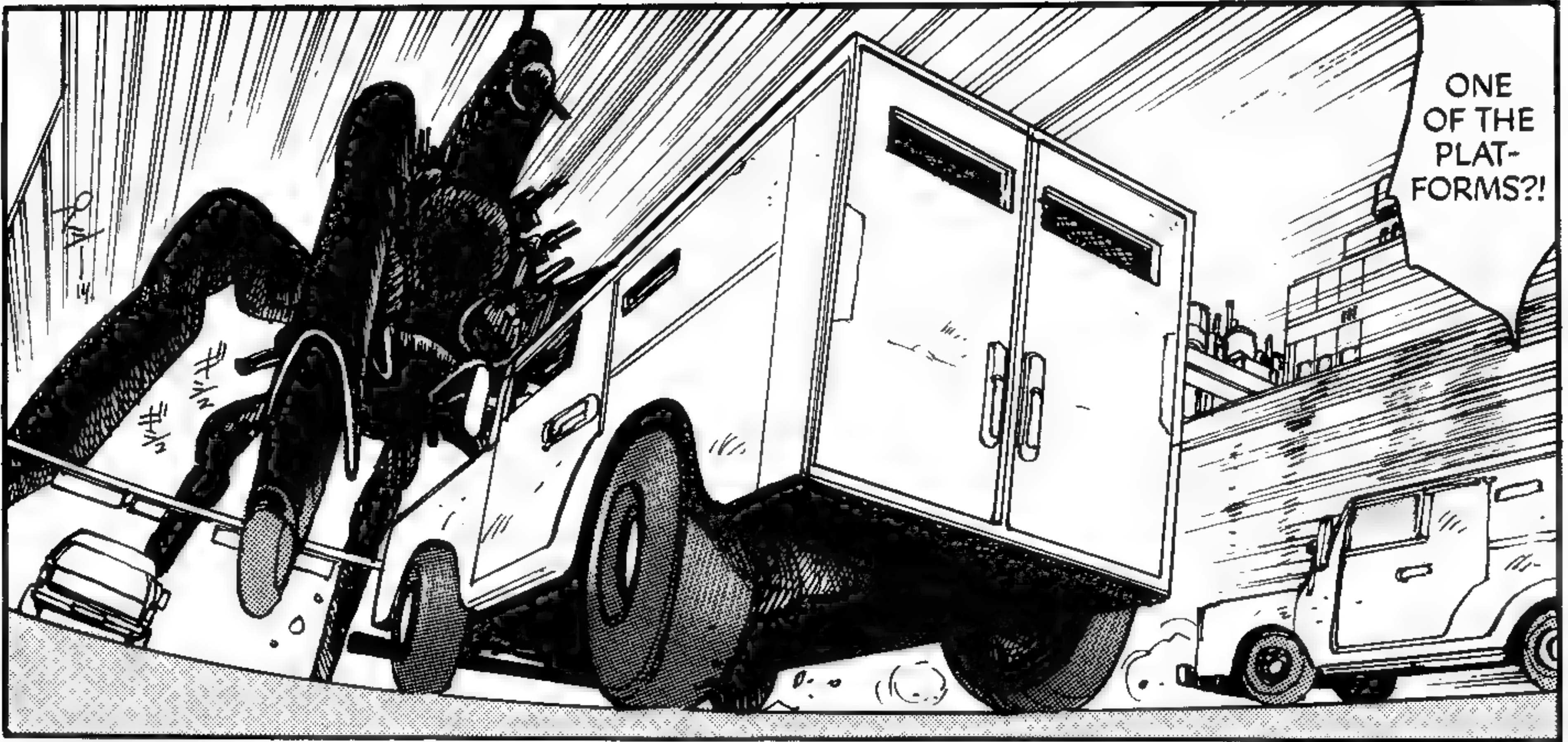
SQUADS  
FOUR,  
FIVE, AND  
SIX--  
REVERSE  
COURSE.



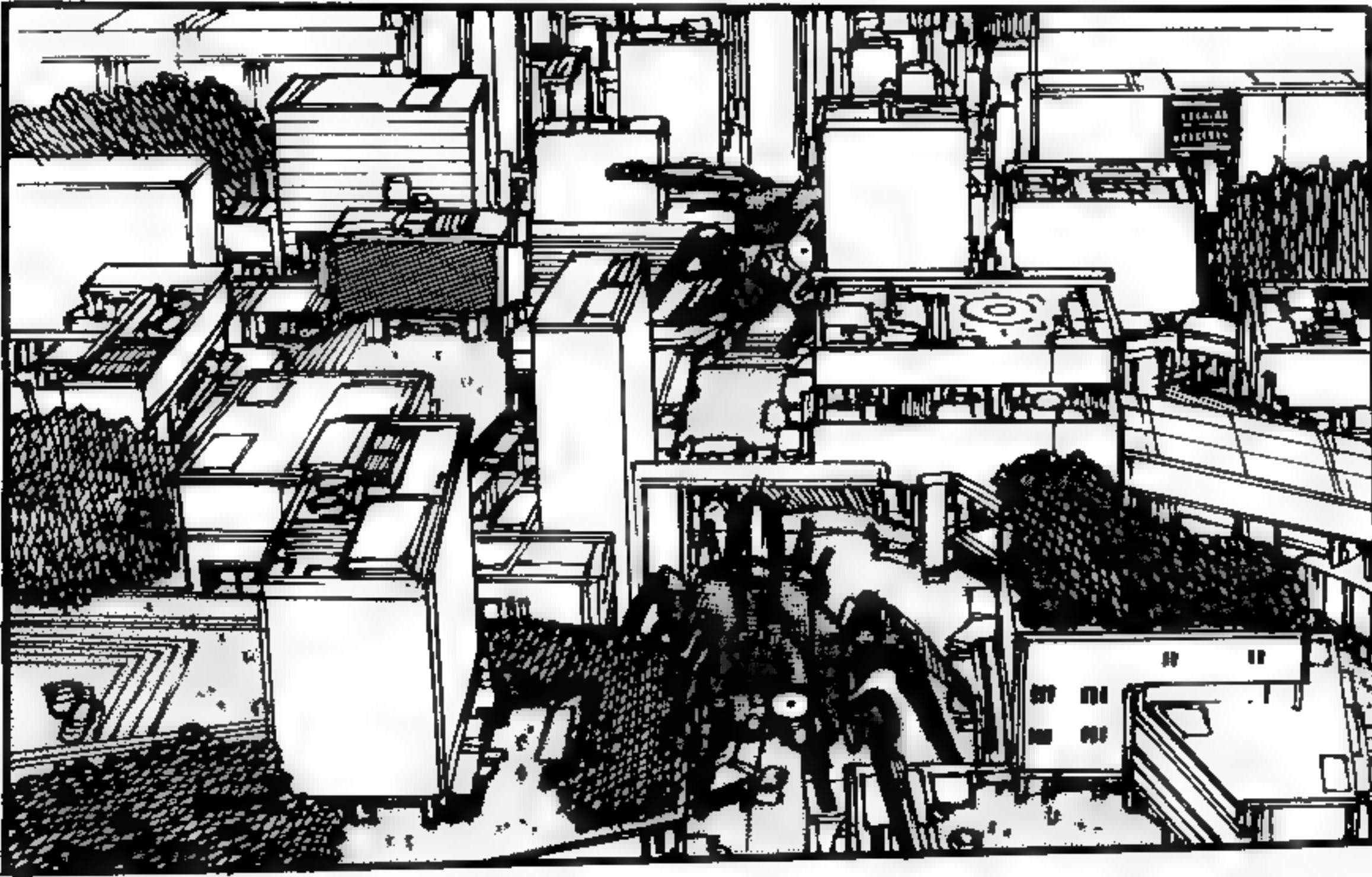
\*FX SKREEE



\*FX PSHHH



\*FX KSHANG KSHANG

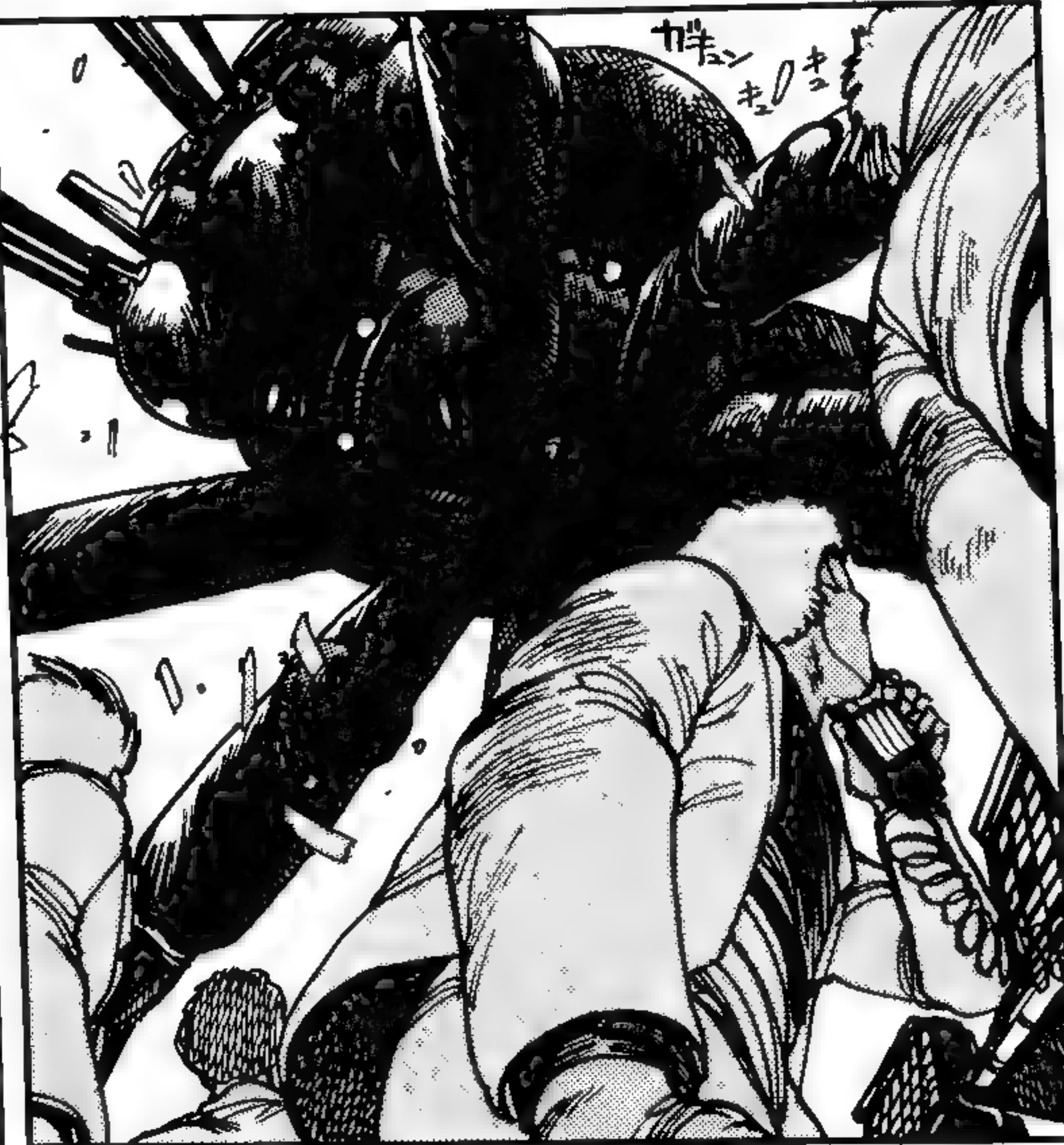


IT'S OKAY--  
WE'VE  
PLANNED  
FOR THIS...

THEY  
OVER-  
TOOK  
US!



\*FX KSHANG KSHANG

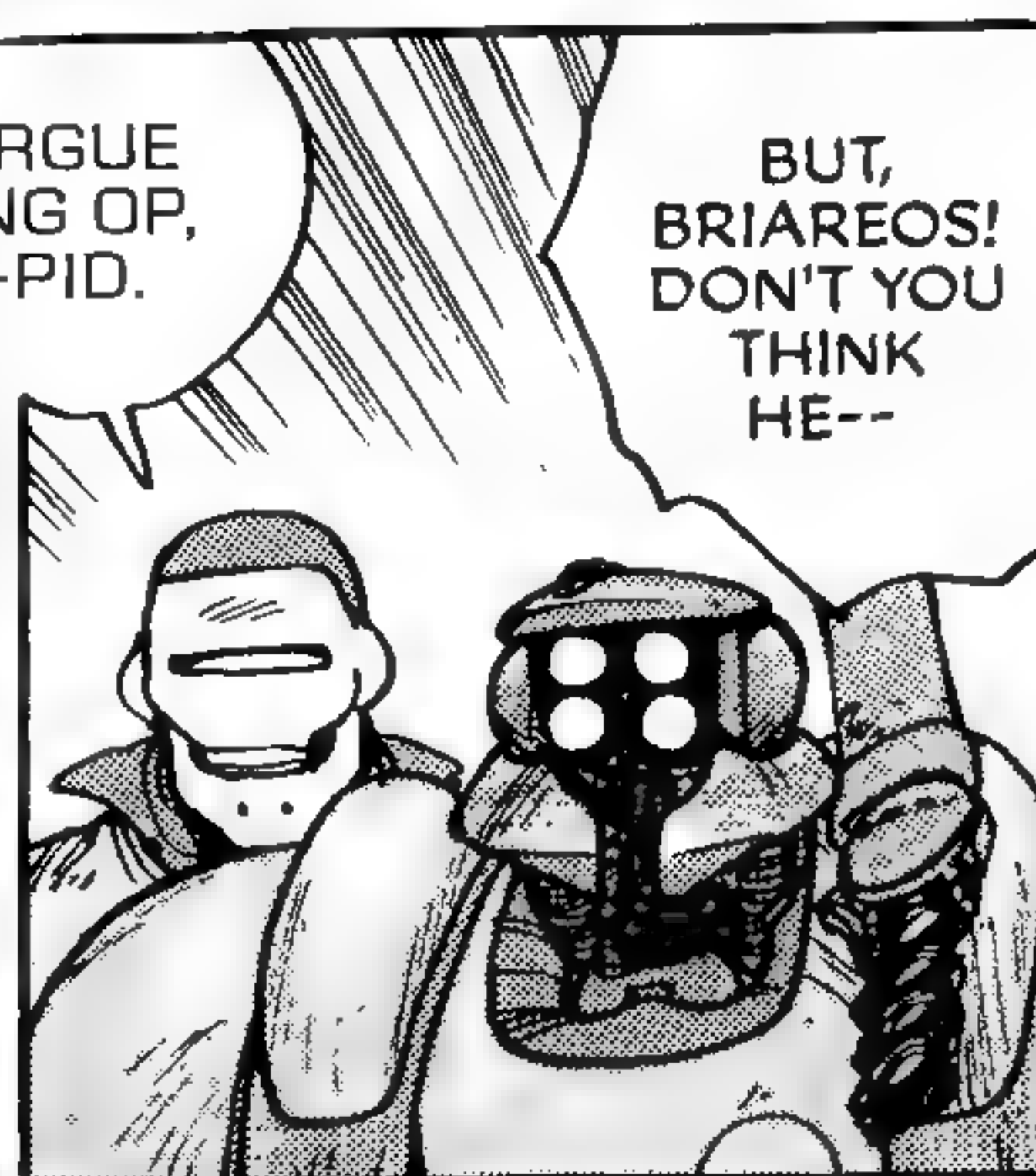


SEND OVER  
A HELI-  
COPTER  
AND I CAN  
BE THERE  
RIGHT  
AWA--

SORRY  
I'M LATE,  
DIRECTOR!

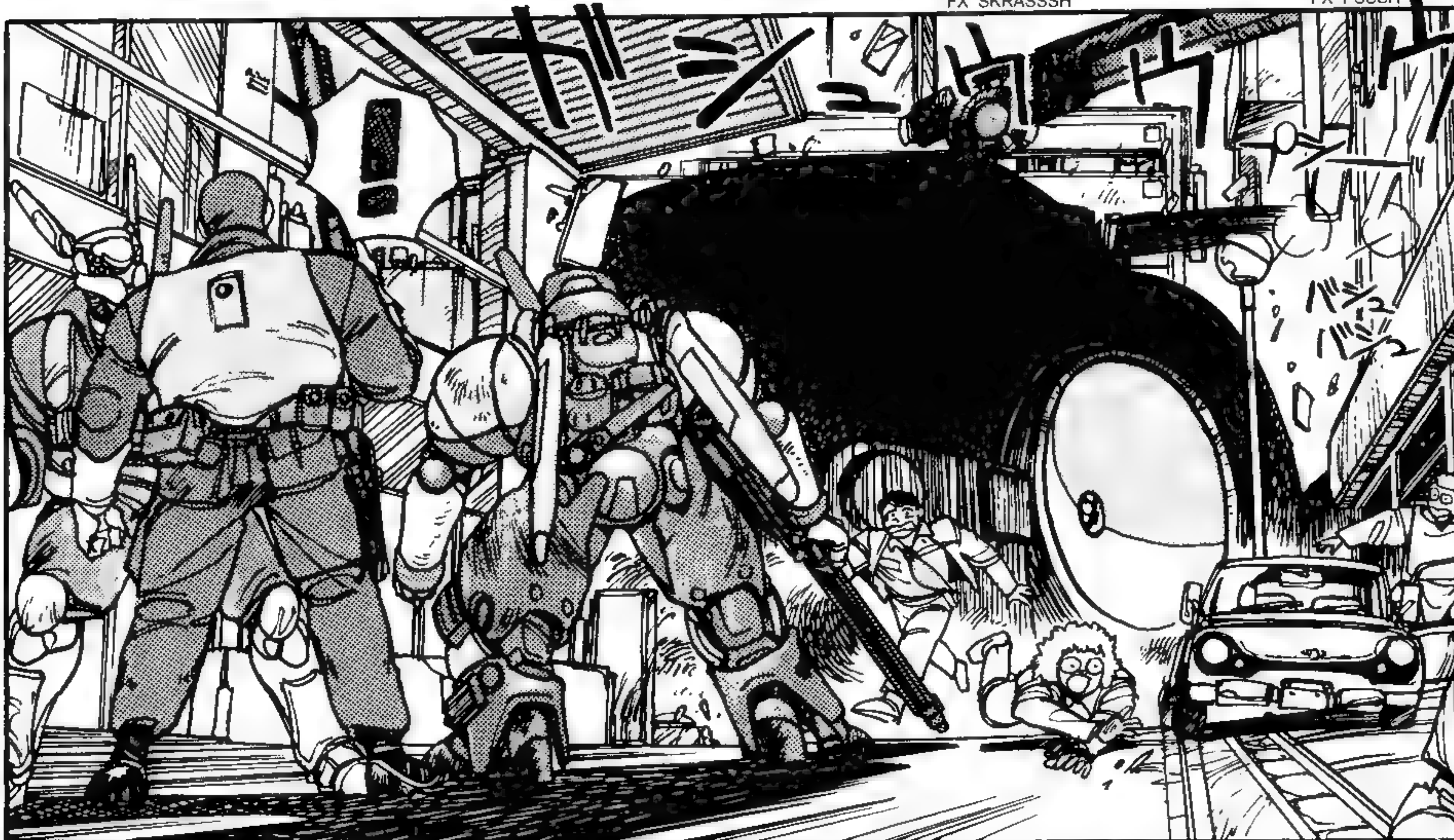






\*FX SKRASSH

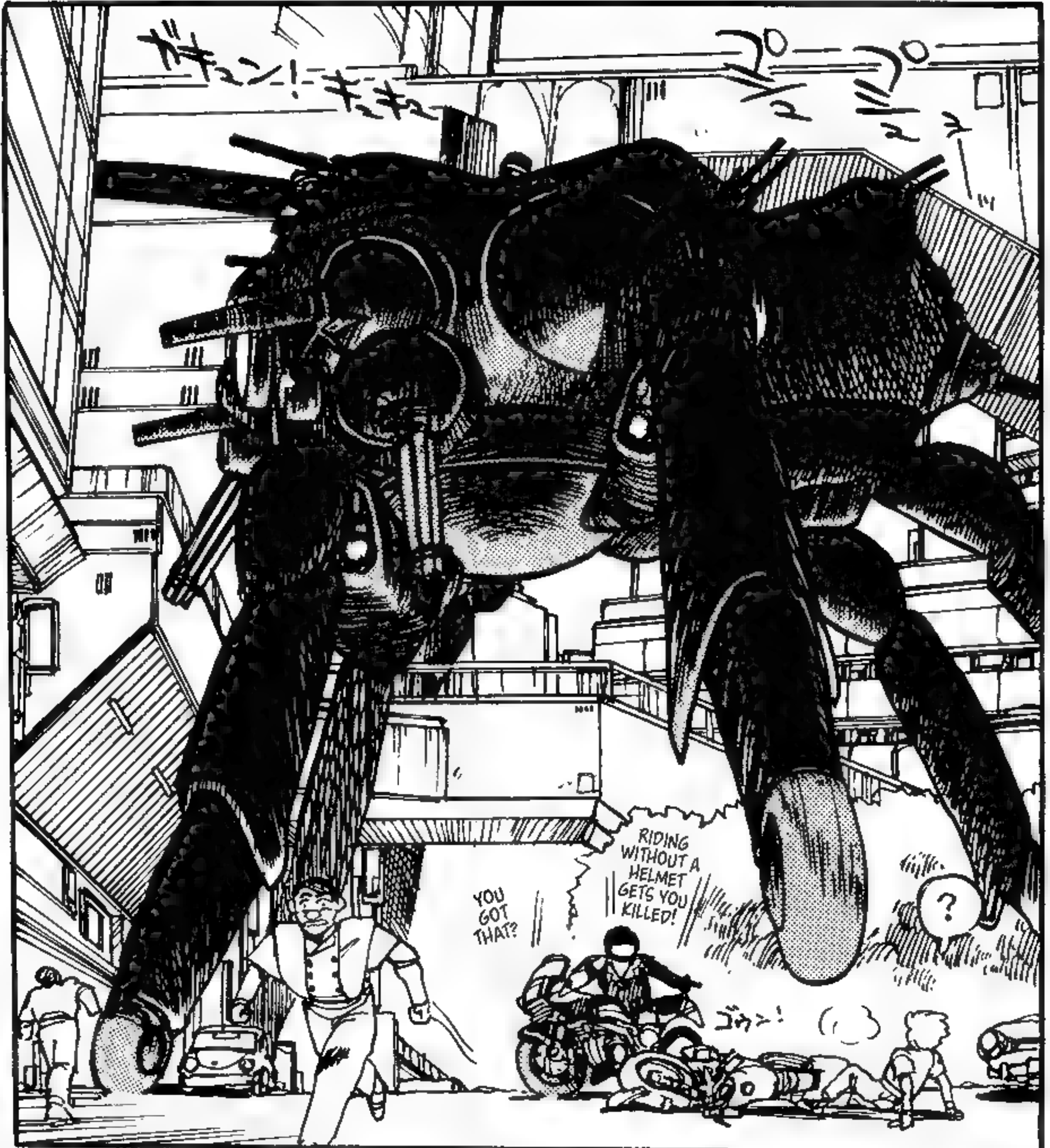
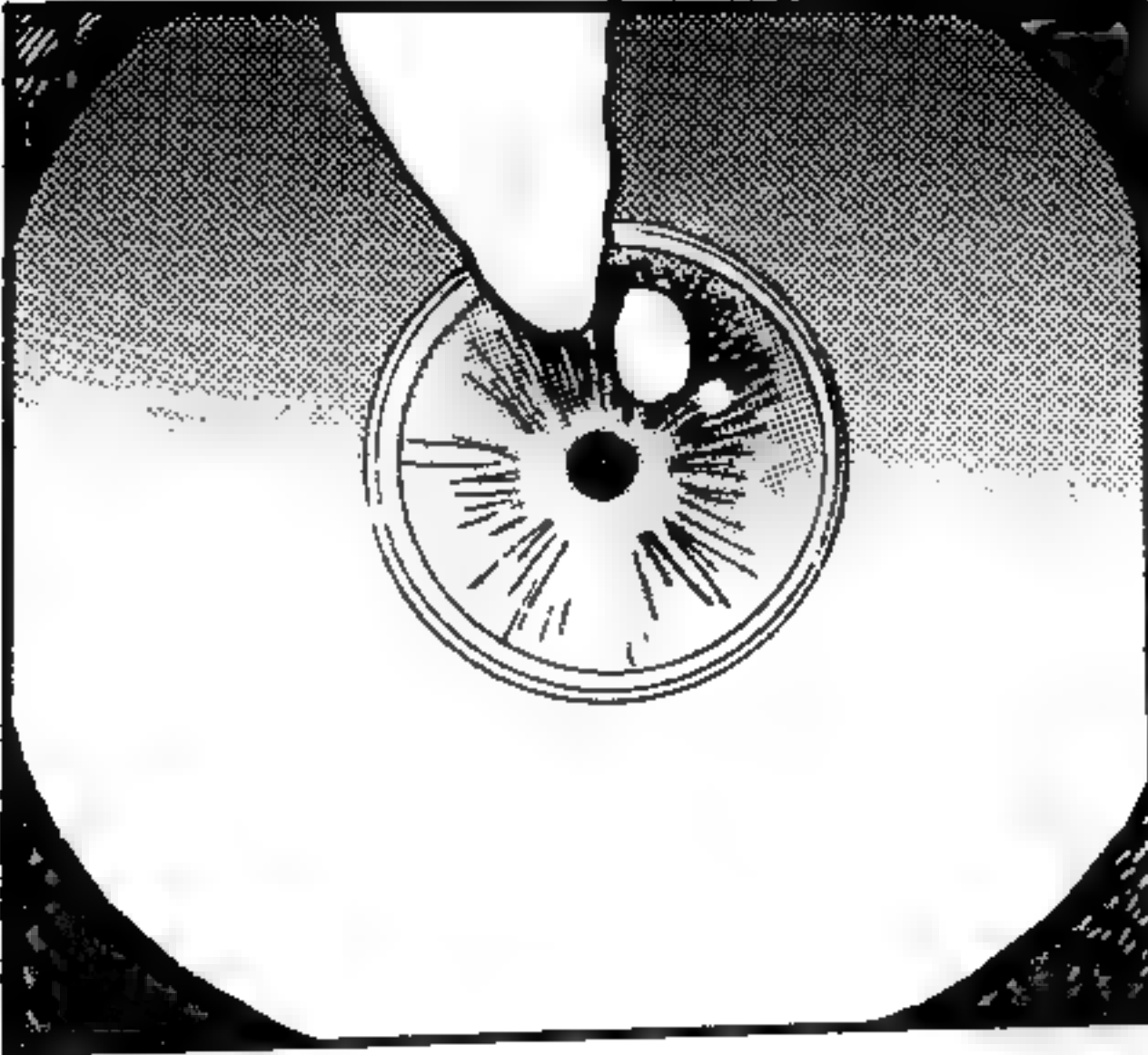
\*FX PSSSH





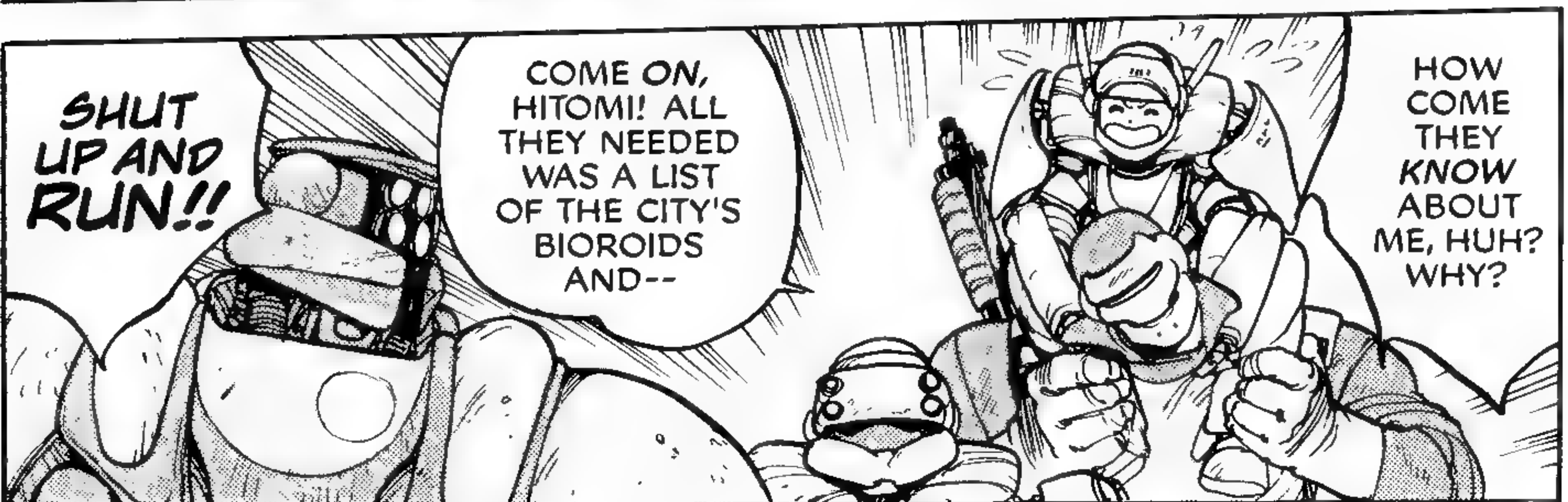
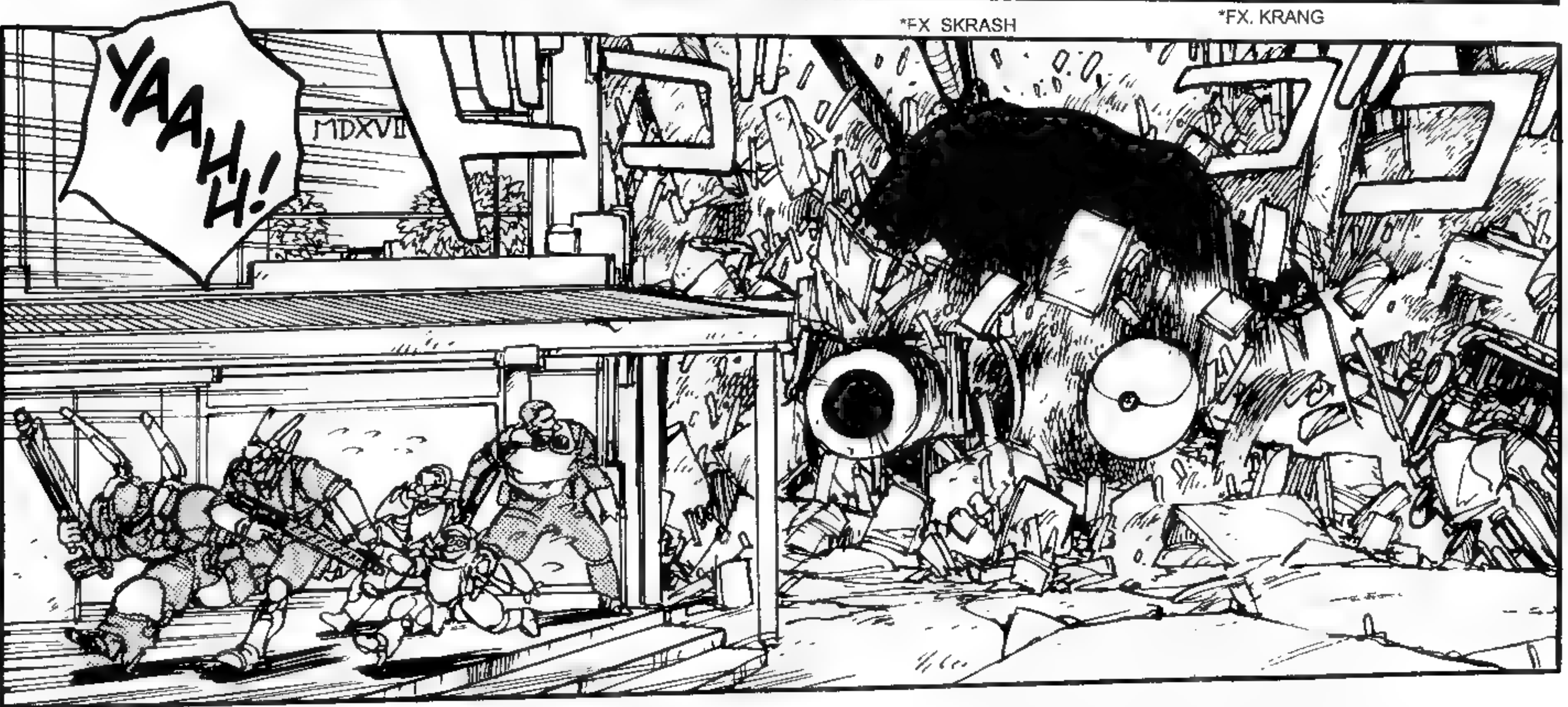
\*FX KCHAK KCHAK

\*FX KASHANG KASHANG

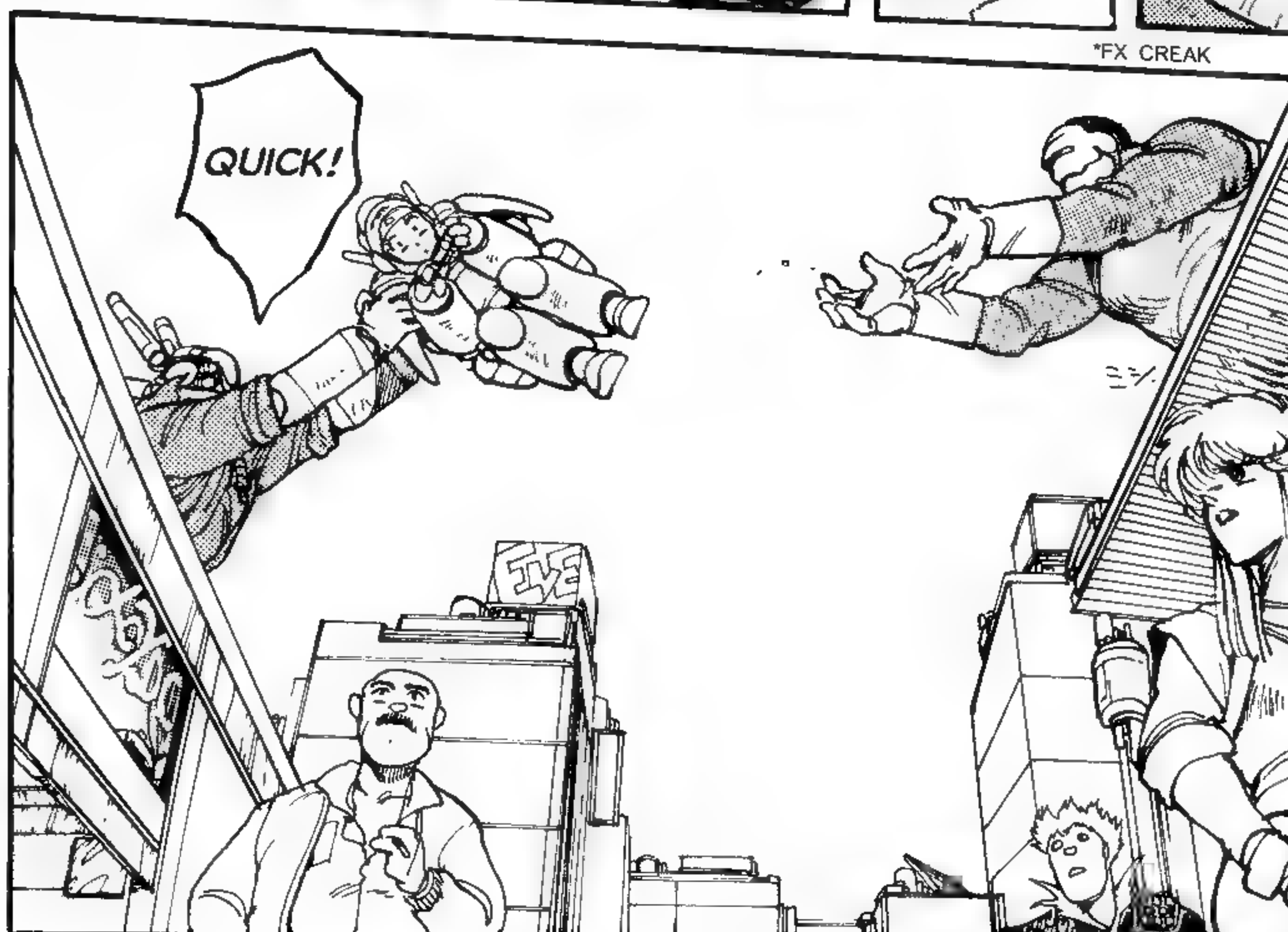
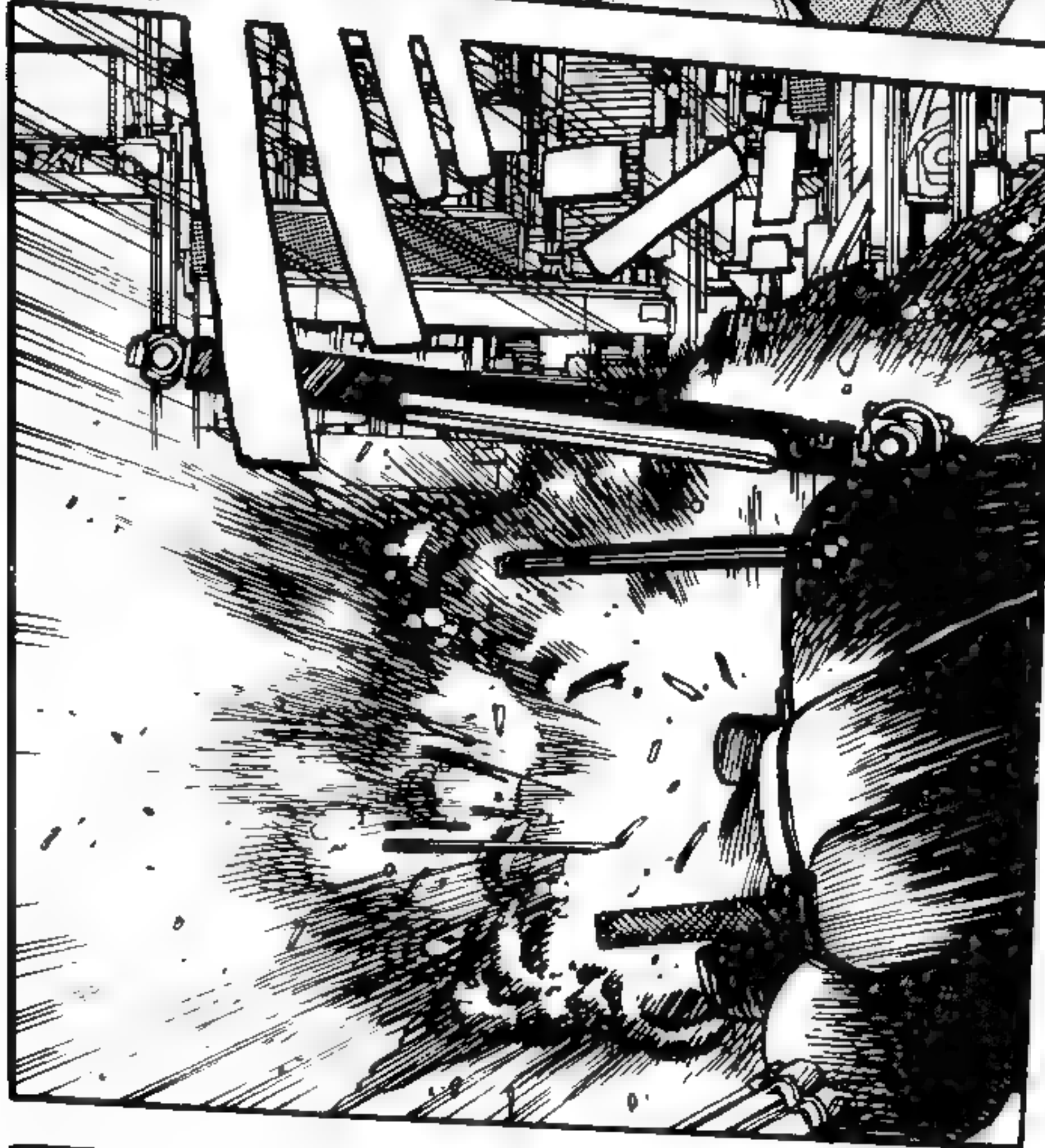


\*FX SKRASH

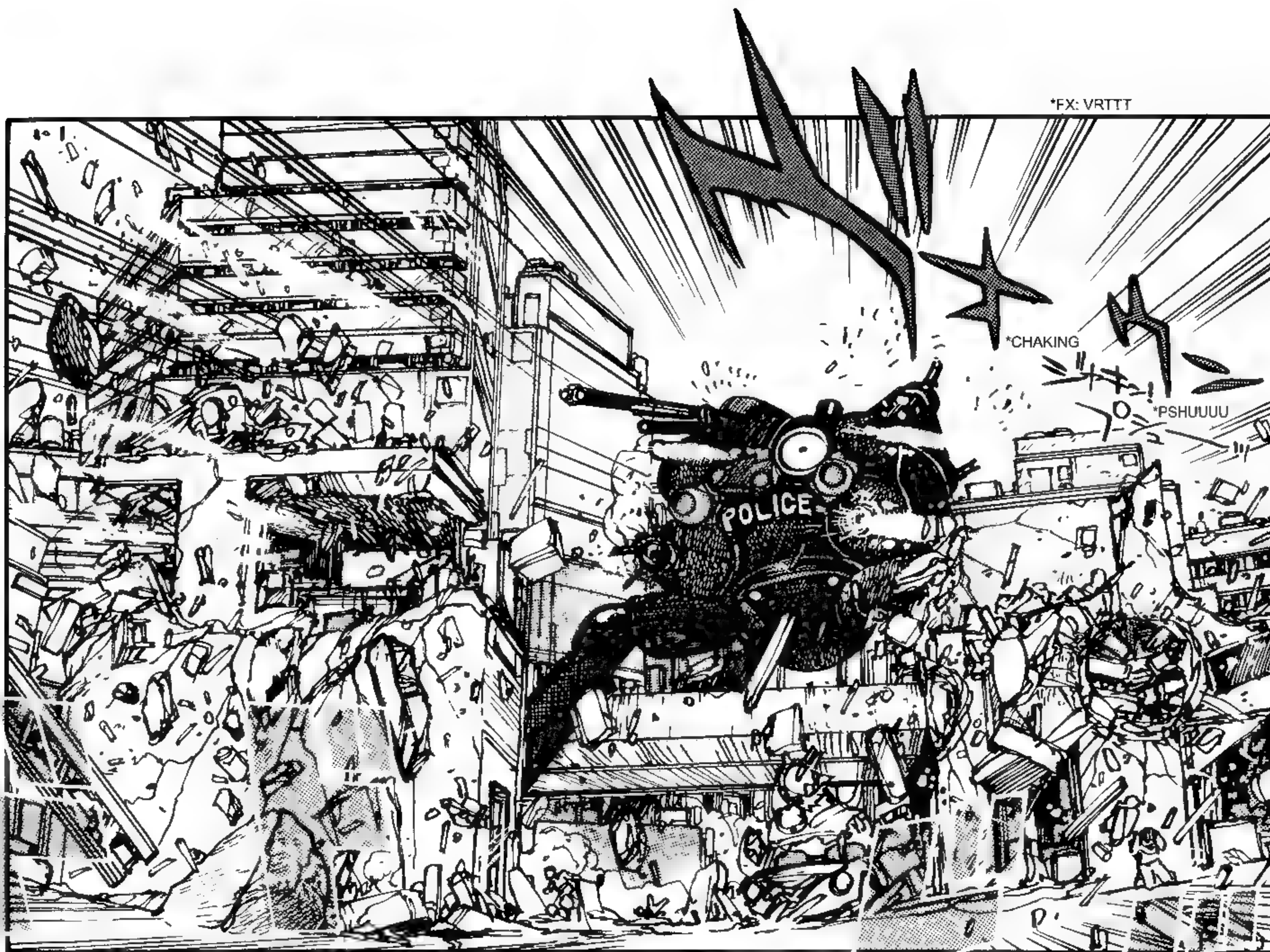
\*FX. KRANG







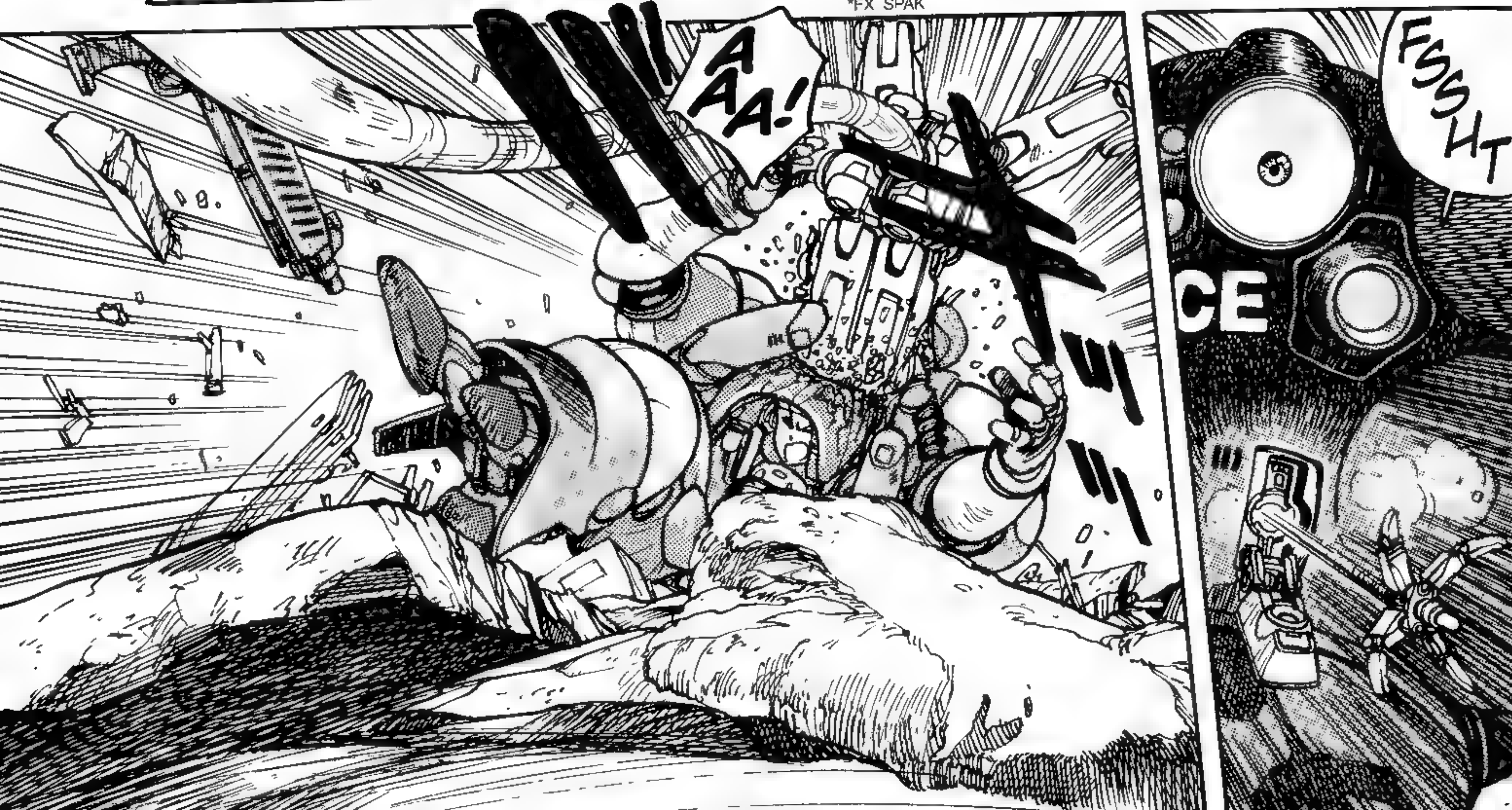




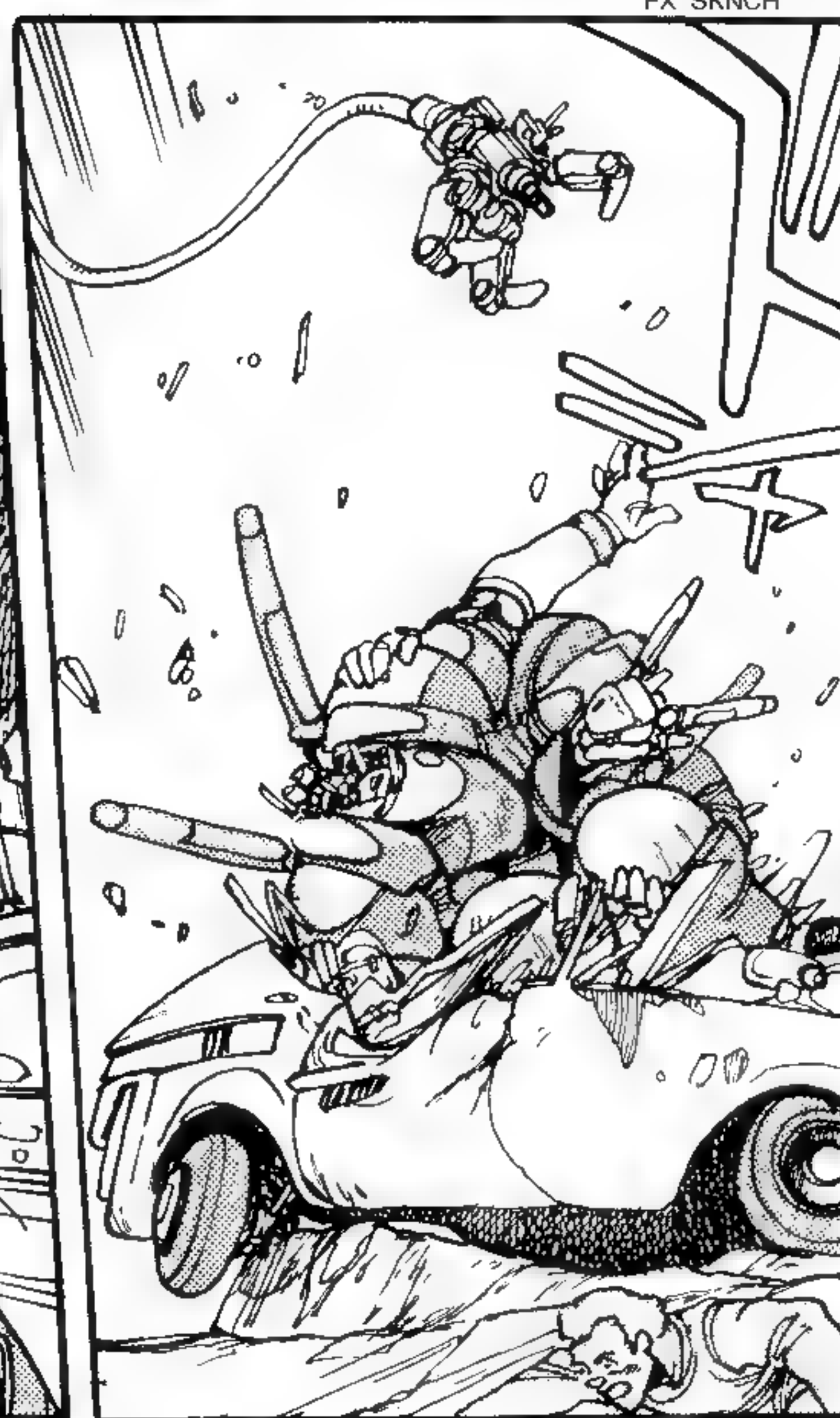
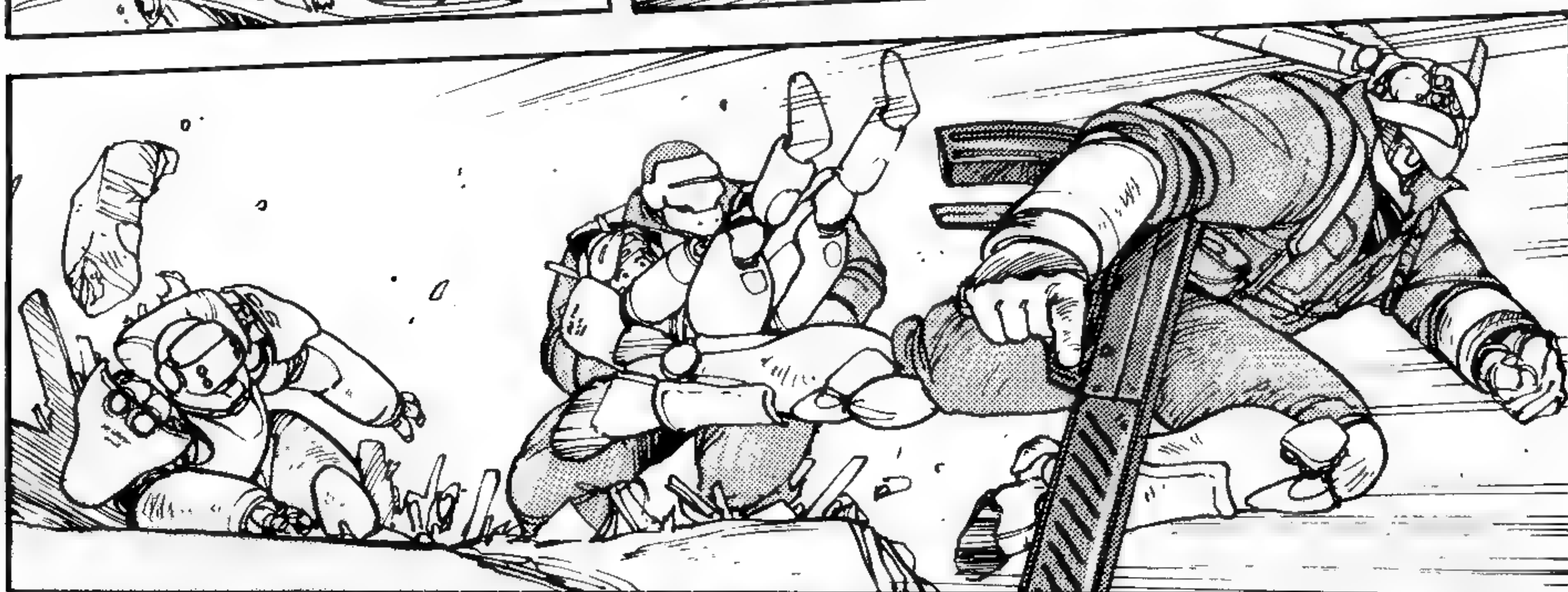
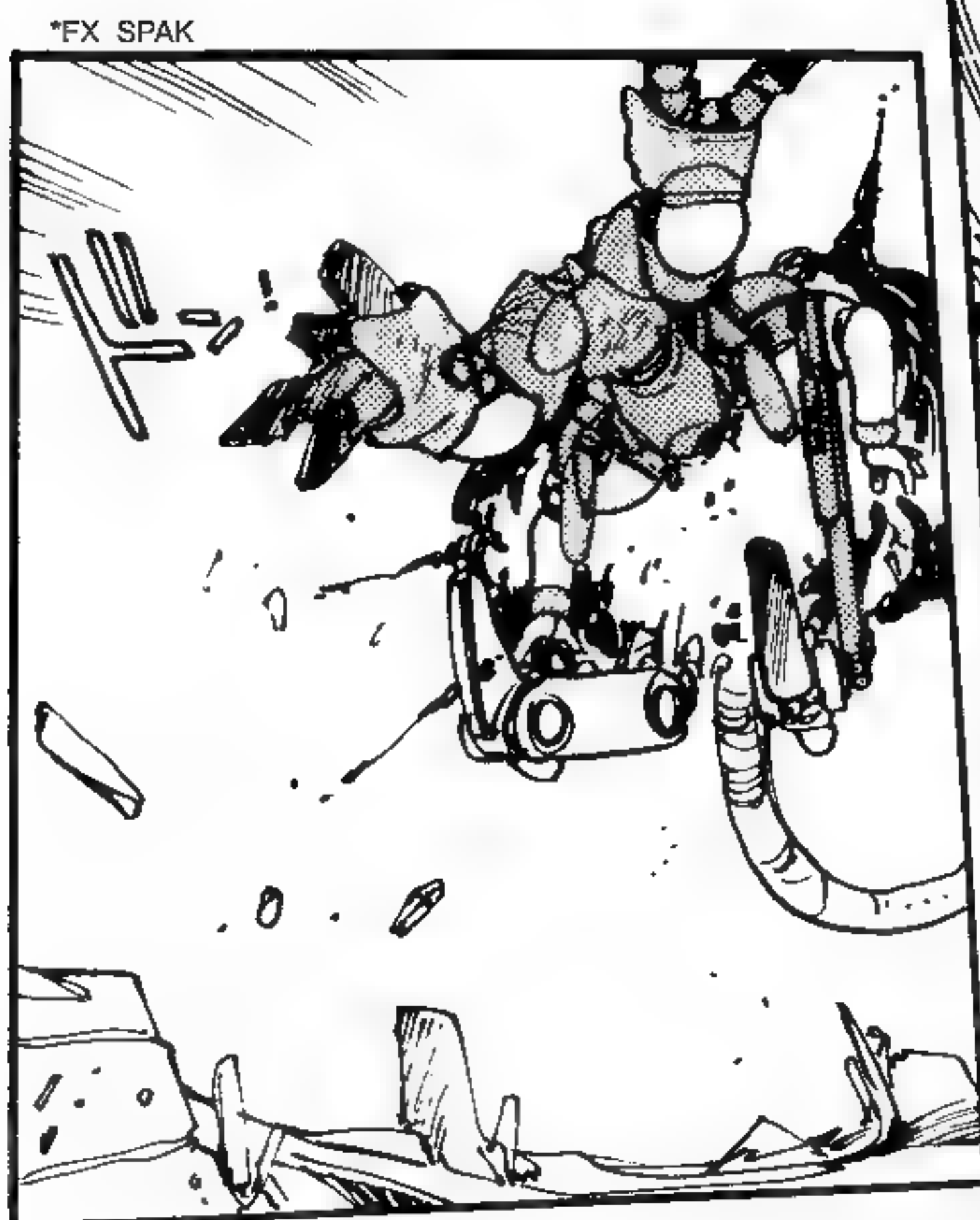
\*FX: BROARRR



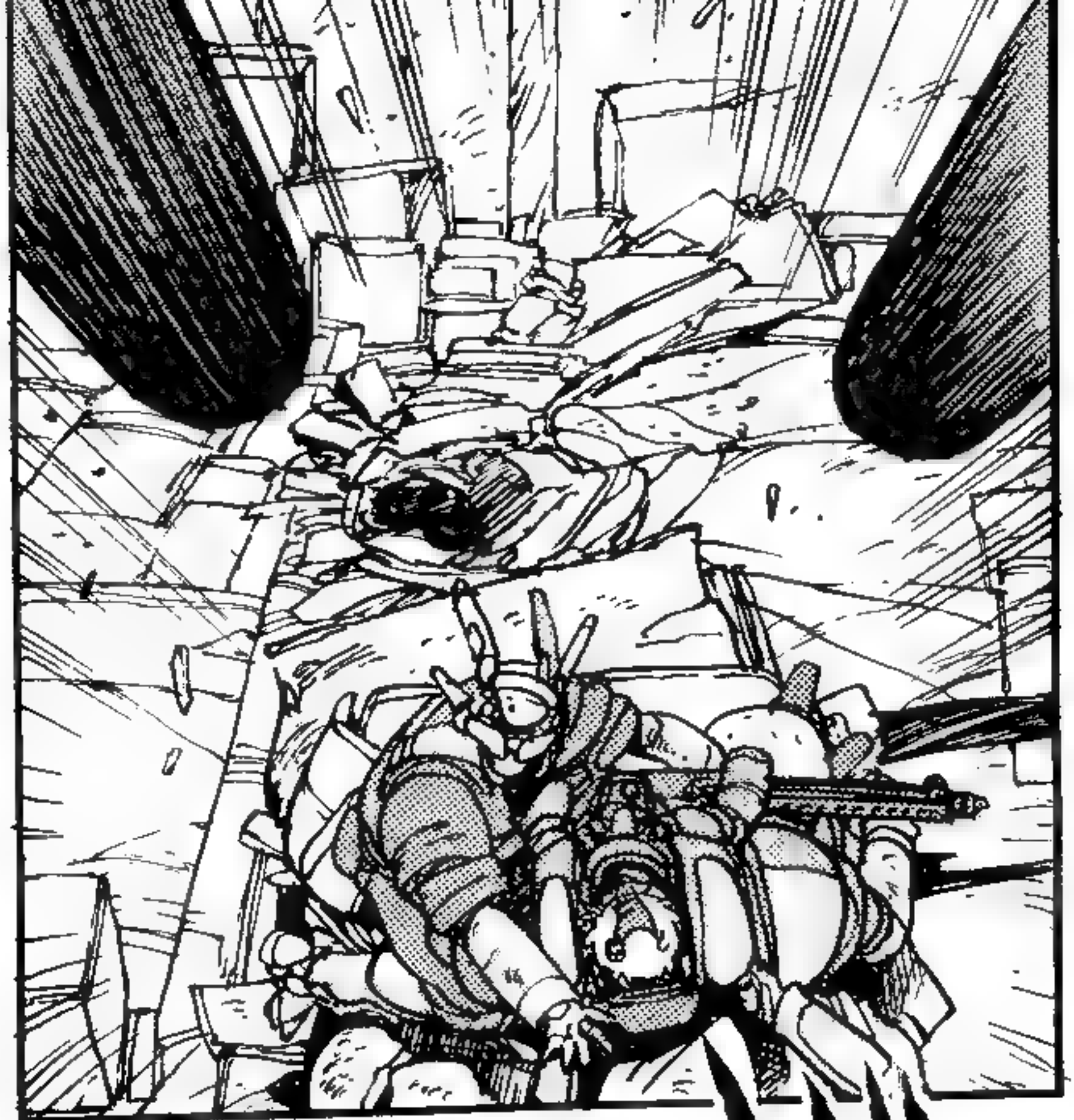
\*FX SPAK







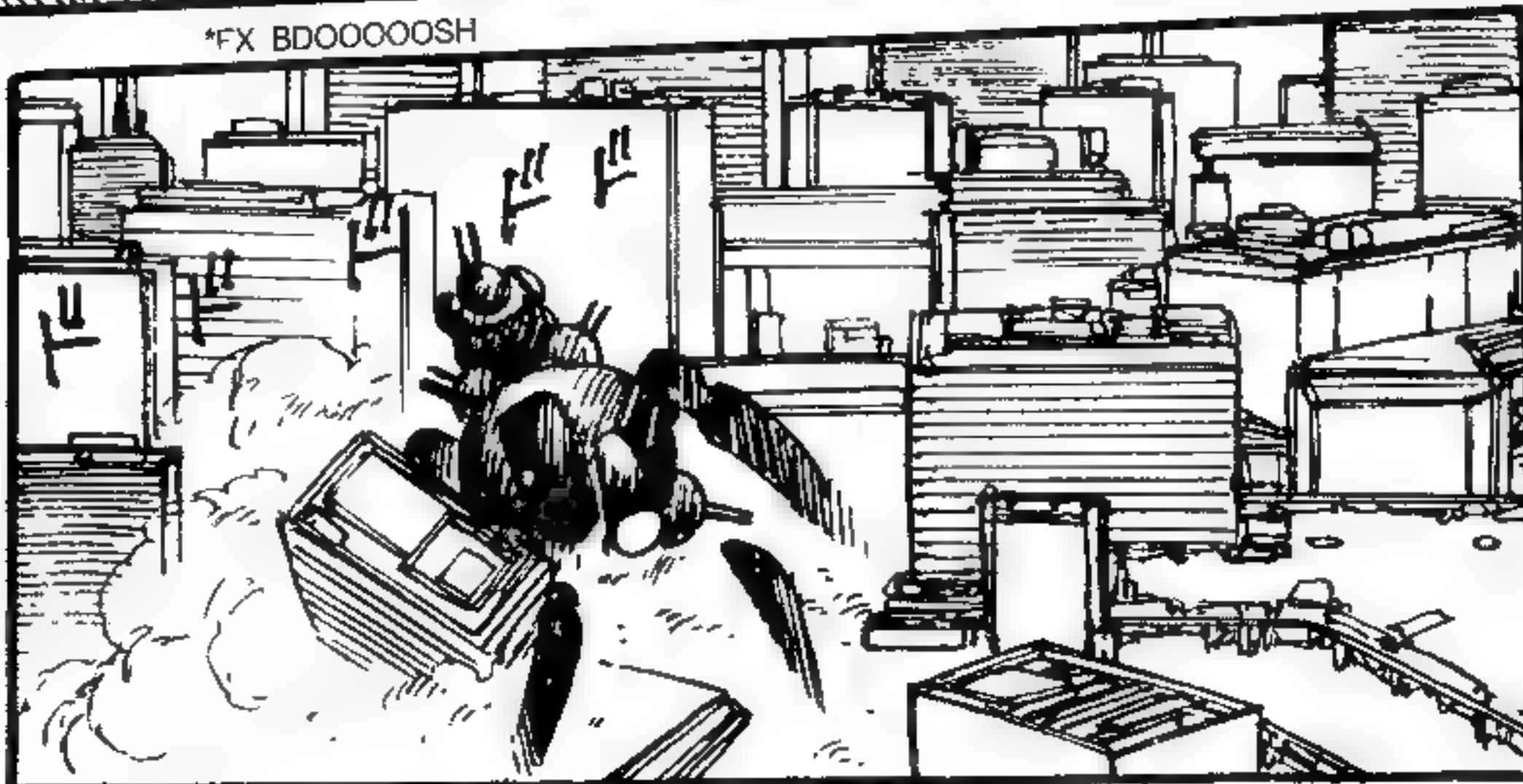




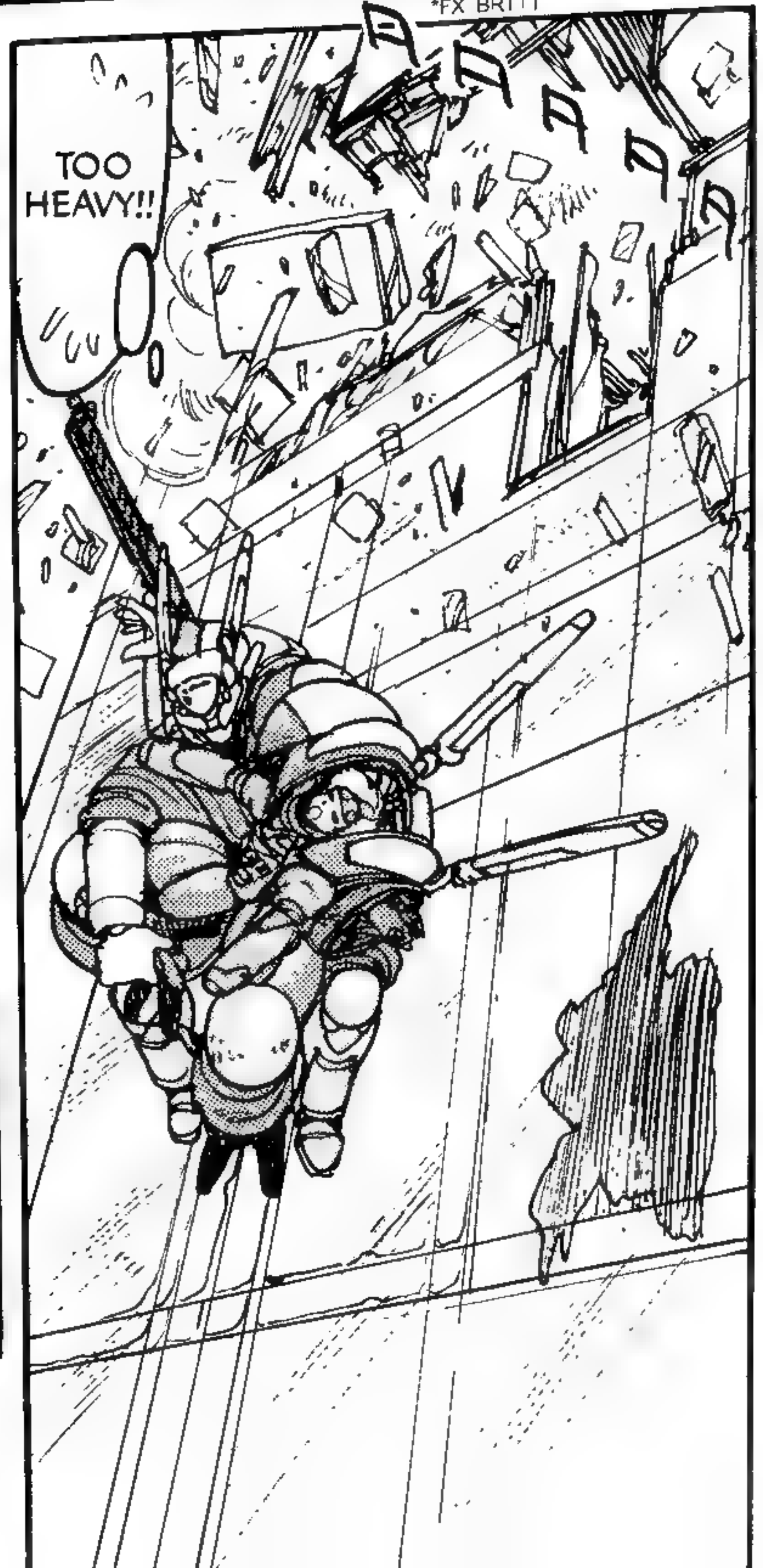
\*FX WHSST



\*FX BRTT

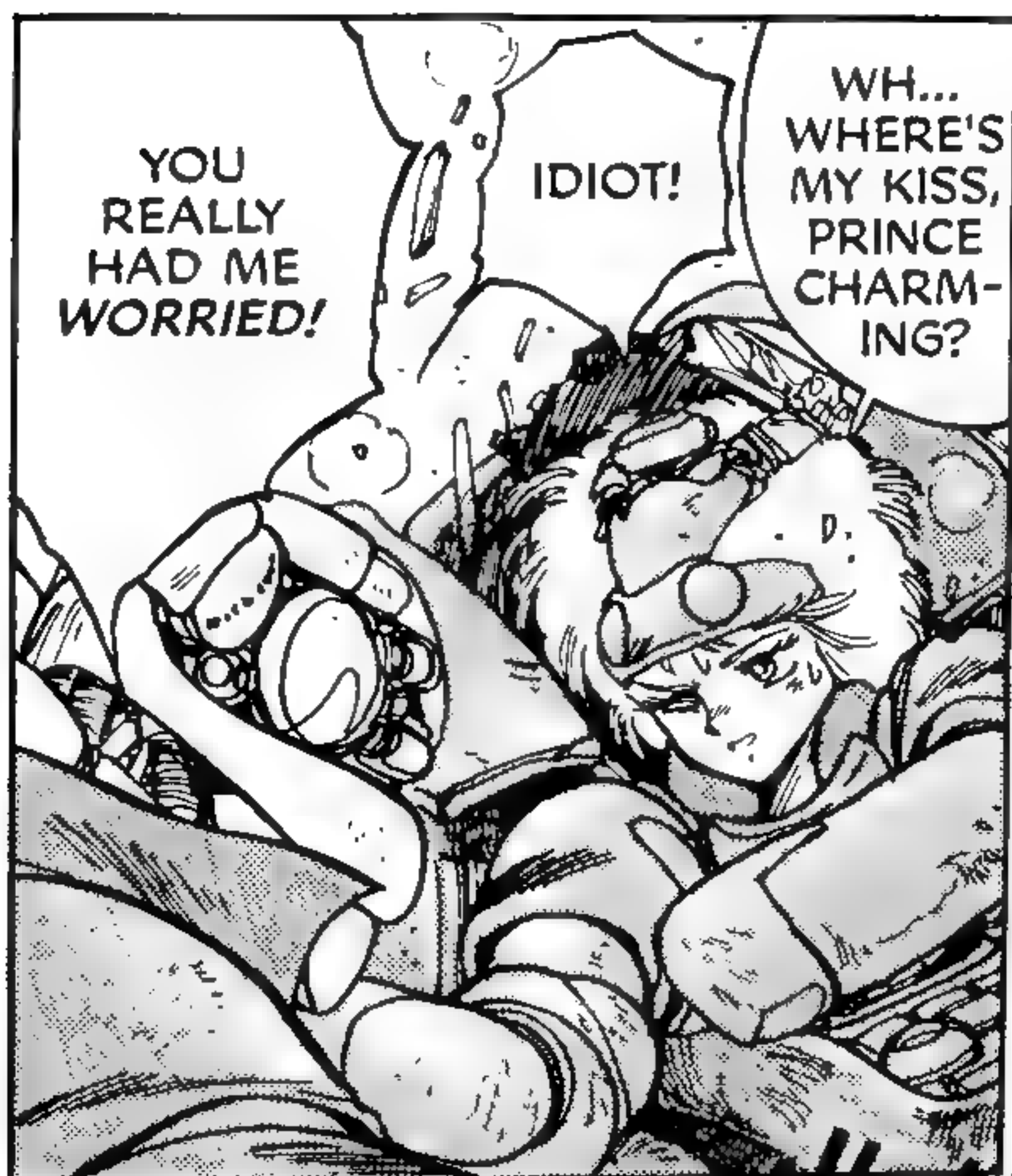


\*FX SKRASH





\*FX DRN DRN DRN DRN DRN



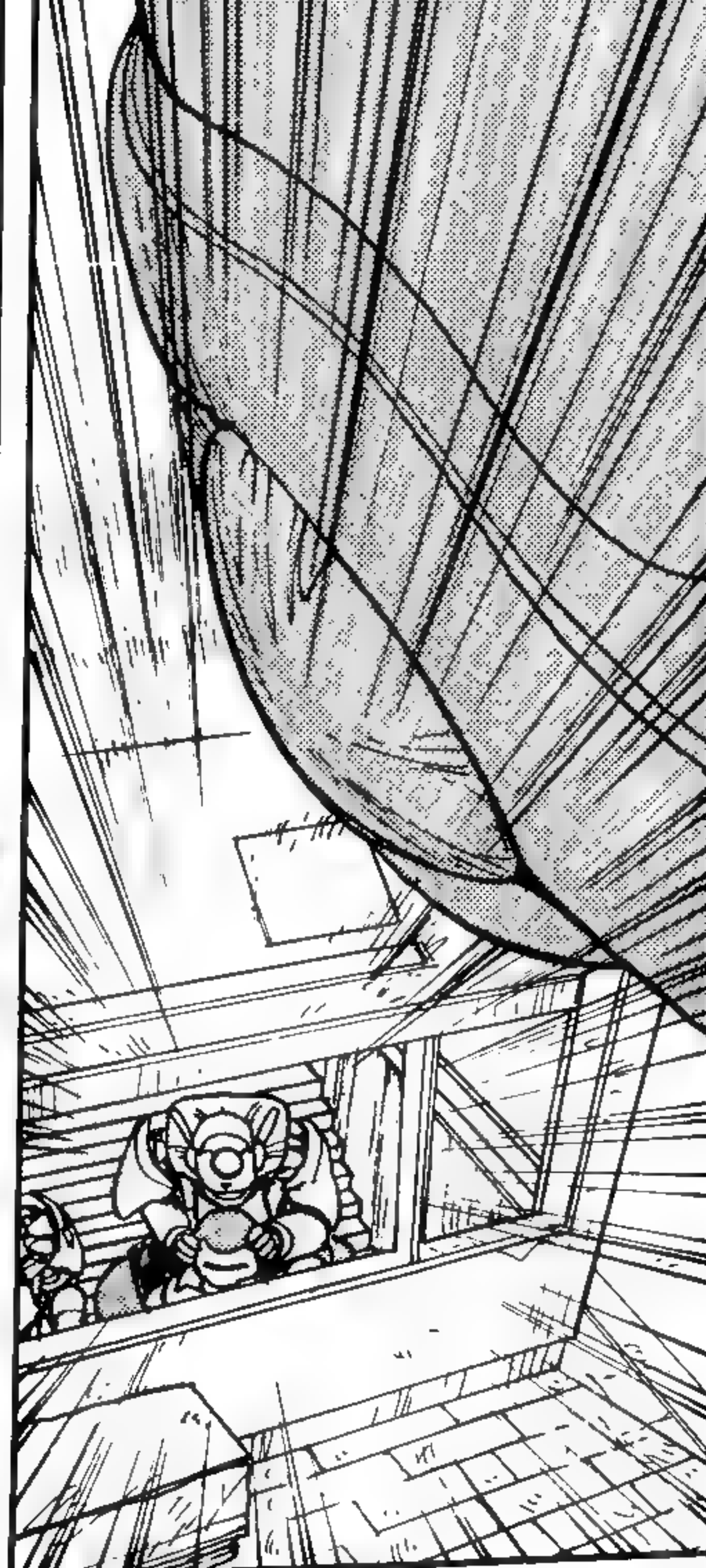
\*FX VRT RTT



\*FX ZUZUZU



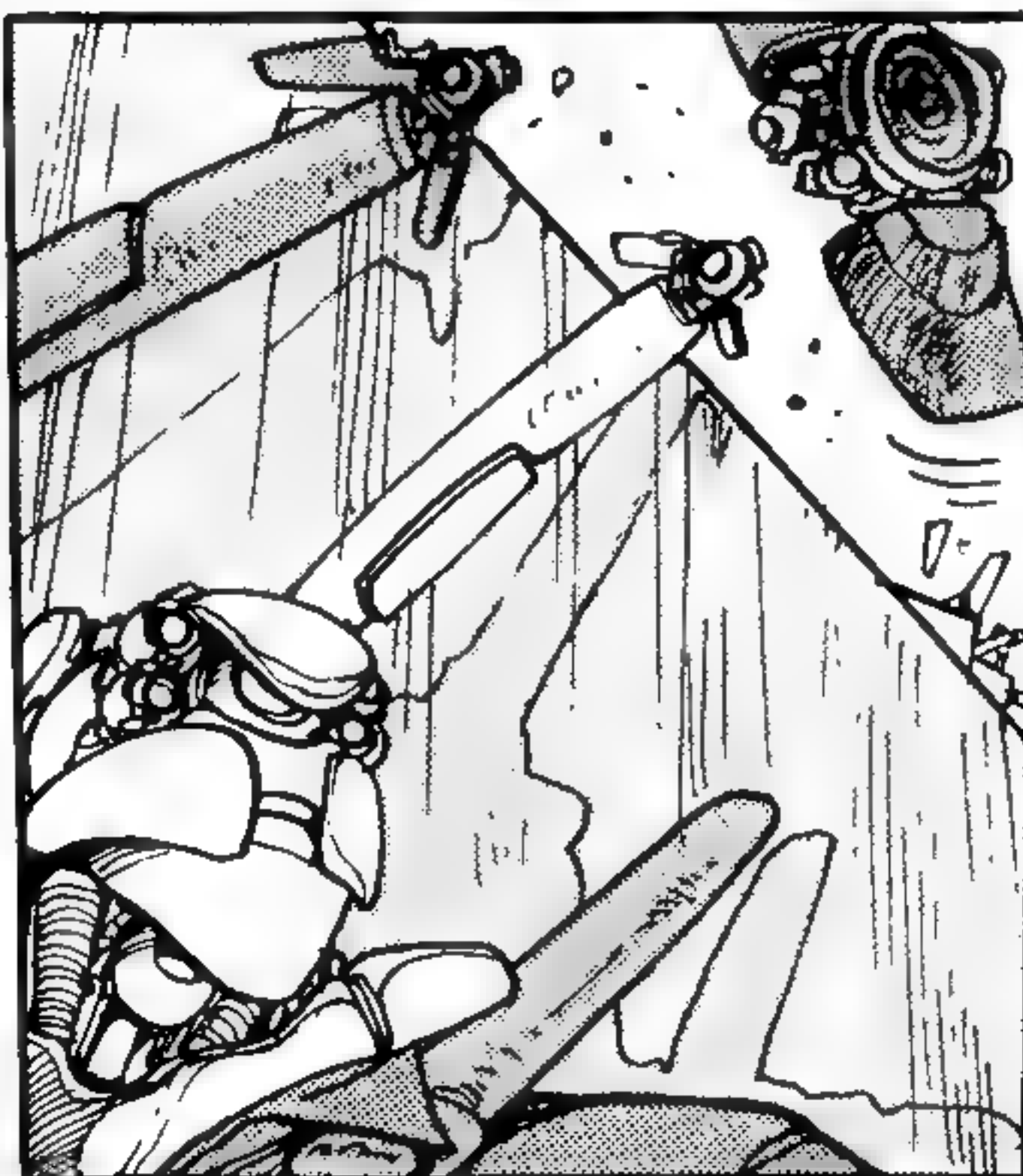




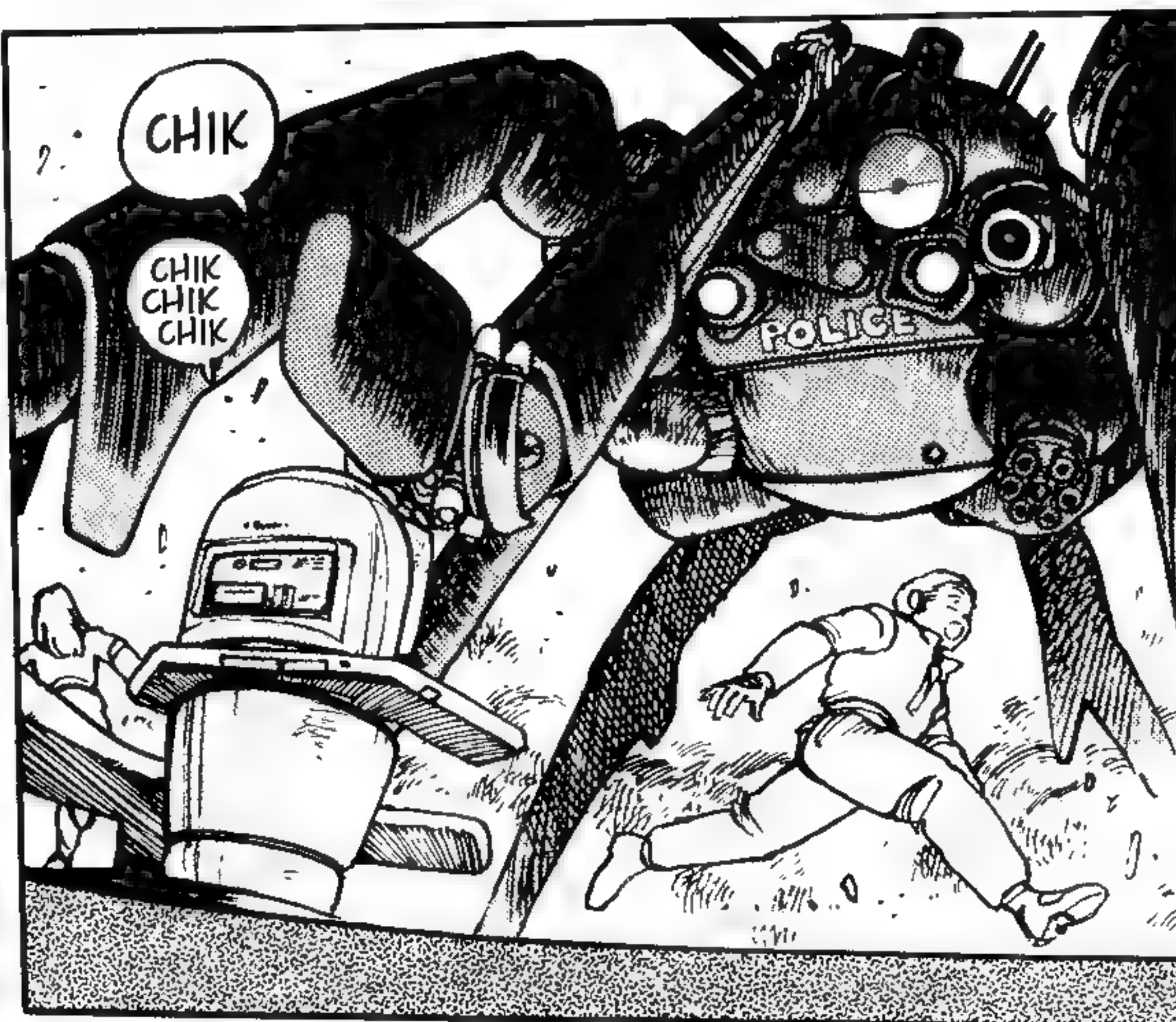
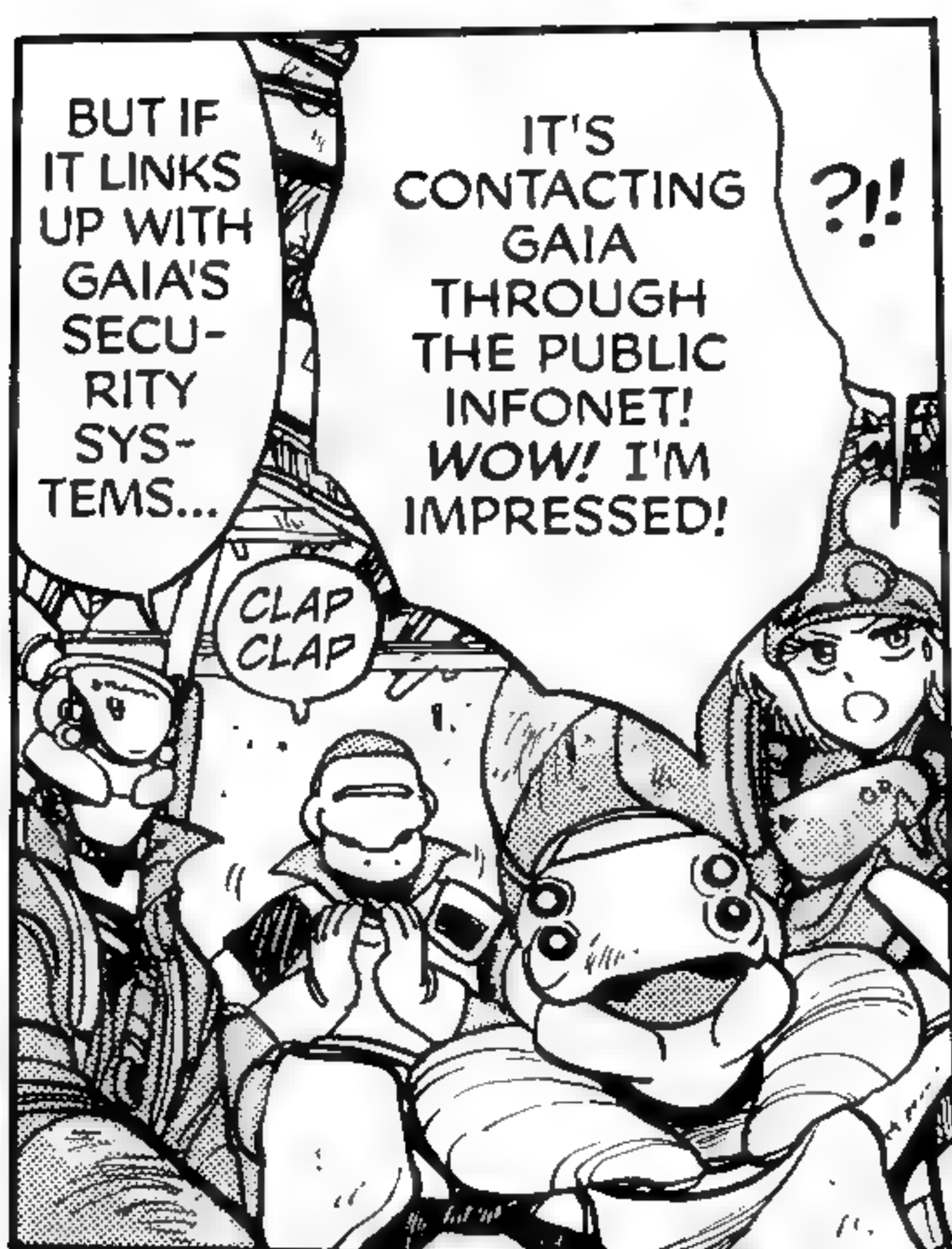
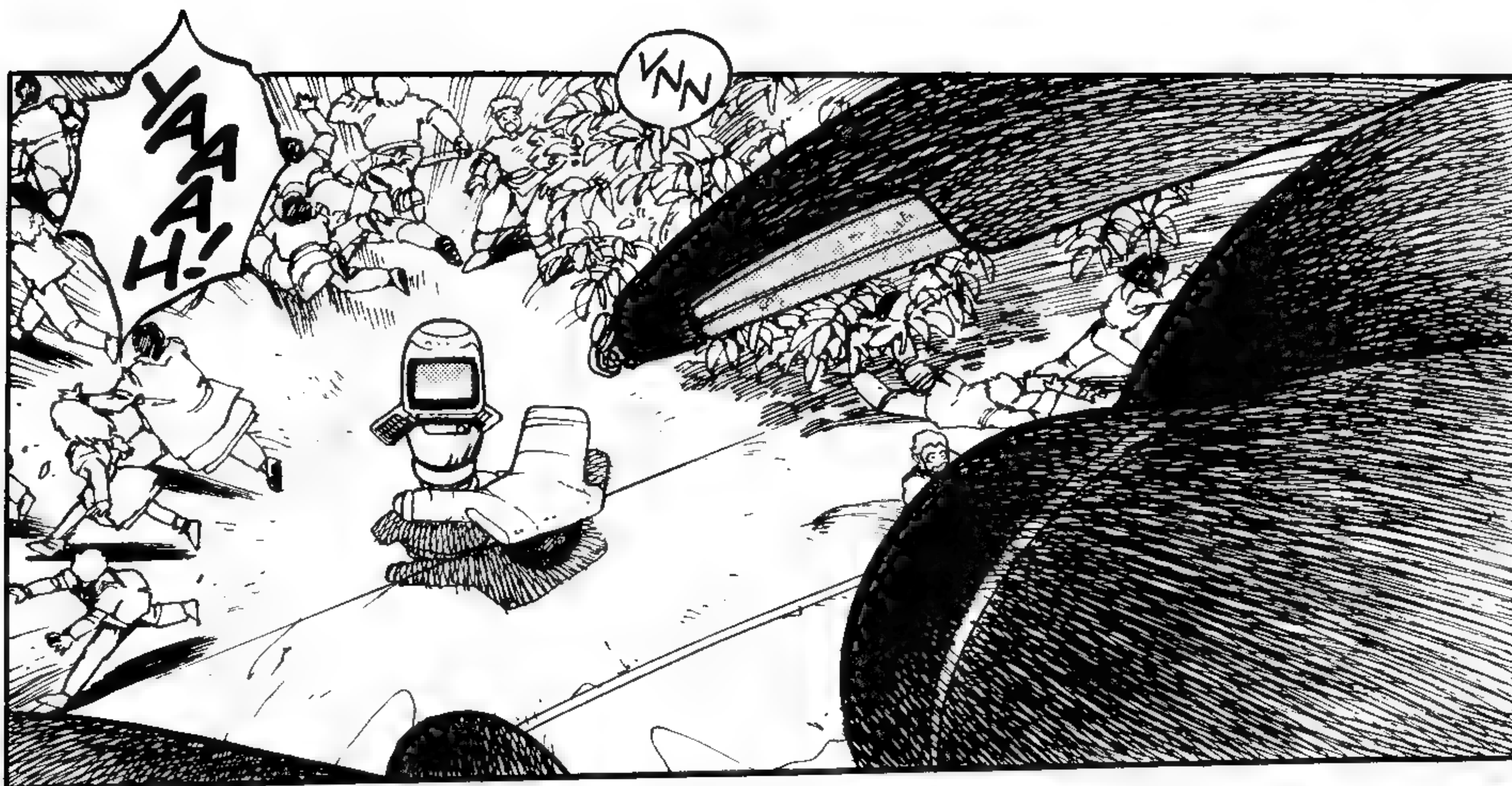
\*FX KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK



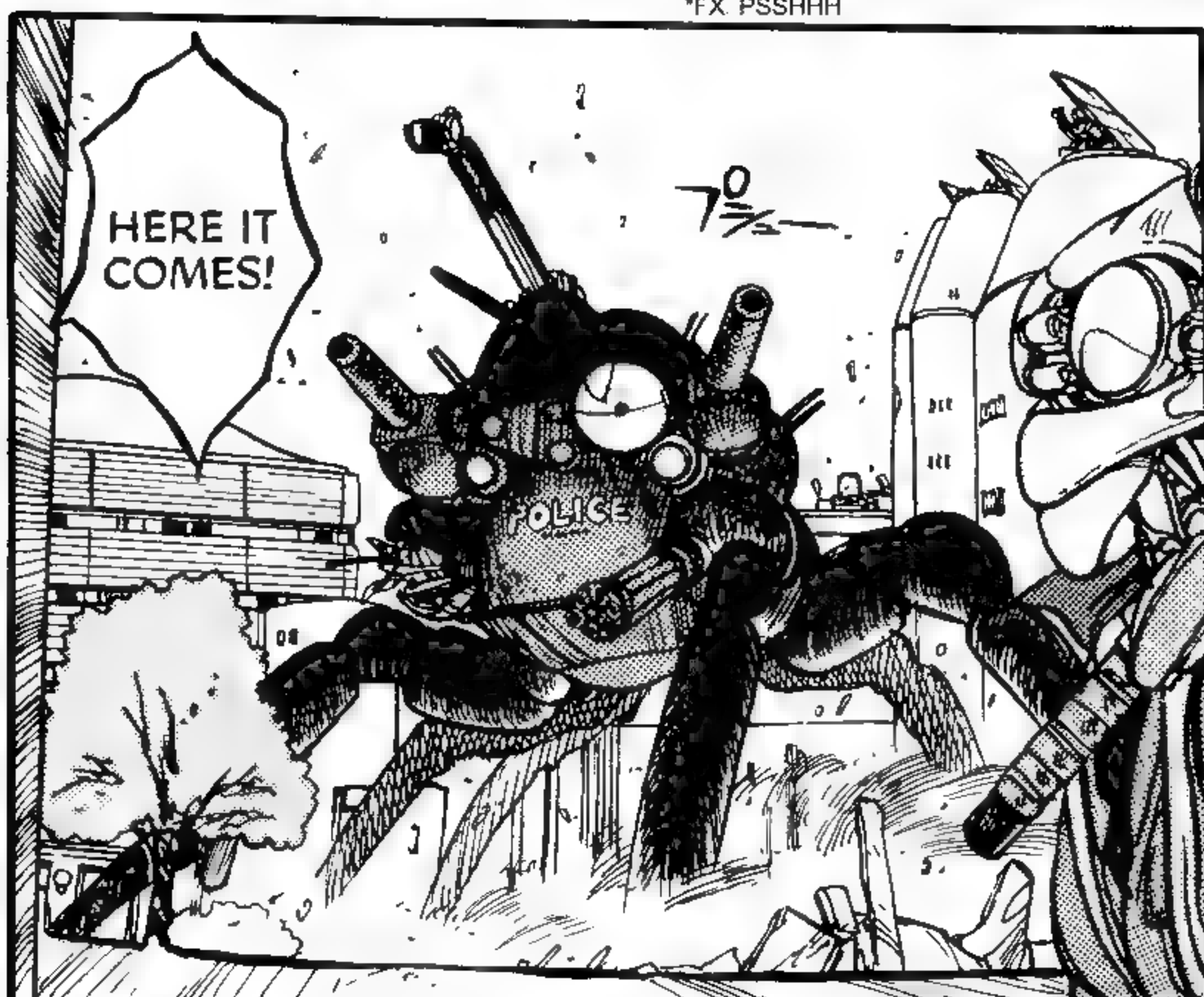
\*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG







\*FX PSSHHH





\*FX VRTTT

ゴッゴッゴッゴッ

IT'LL  
TAKE US  
ALL THE  
WAY TO  
AN *H*  
BLOCK,  
TOO!

THAT'S  
PERFECT,  
HITOMI!  
GO FOR  
IT!

I KNOW  
A KEEN PLACE  
IN BASEMENT  
THREE WHERE  
WE CAN GET  
INTO THE  
OPTICAL FIBER  
DUCTS!

\*FX VUON!!

\*FX BROOOOAR

THE  
WIND'S  
PICKING UP--  
CINCH DOWN  
THOSE  
STAYS!

HEY!  
THE  
COMMUNI-  
CATOR IS--  
DAMN!

--CAN'T  
PROTECT  
TARTARUS?! WHAT  
ABOUT THEIR  
ANTENNAS?  
THEY WHAT?  
FIREPOWER?  
I CAN'T HEAR  
YOU--  
RETRANSMIT!!

IT  
SEEMS  
TO BE  
CHASING  
SOME-  
THING...!

SIR!  
THERE'RE TWO  
PLATFORMS  
BY THE GAIA  
COMPLEX--ONE  
OF THEM'S  
UP TO SOME-  
THING AT THE  
BASE OF THE  
ARCOLOGY.

\*FX KCHAK

COLONEL,  
SIR!

SIX OF THEM?!  
TAKING UP  
POSITIONS AROUND  
TARTARUS? DAMN  
IT, THEY MEAN TO  
LAUNCH AN  
ULTRAVIBE ATTACK!  
BLOW THE PLAZA  
OUT FROM UNDER  
THEM IF YOU HAVE  
TO, BUT DON'T  
LET THEM GET  
SET UP!!



WELL, IS IT UNDER CONTROL? YOU DON'T NEED TO BLOW THE TOWER?



YES, SIR! I MEAN, NO, SIR! WE CUT THE CABLES AND SECURED THE COMMUNICATION GRID, BUT...

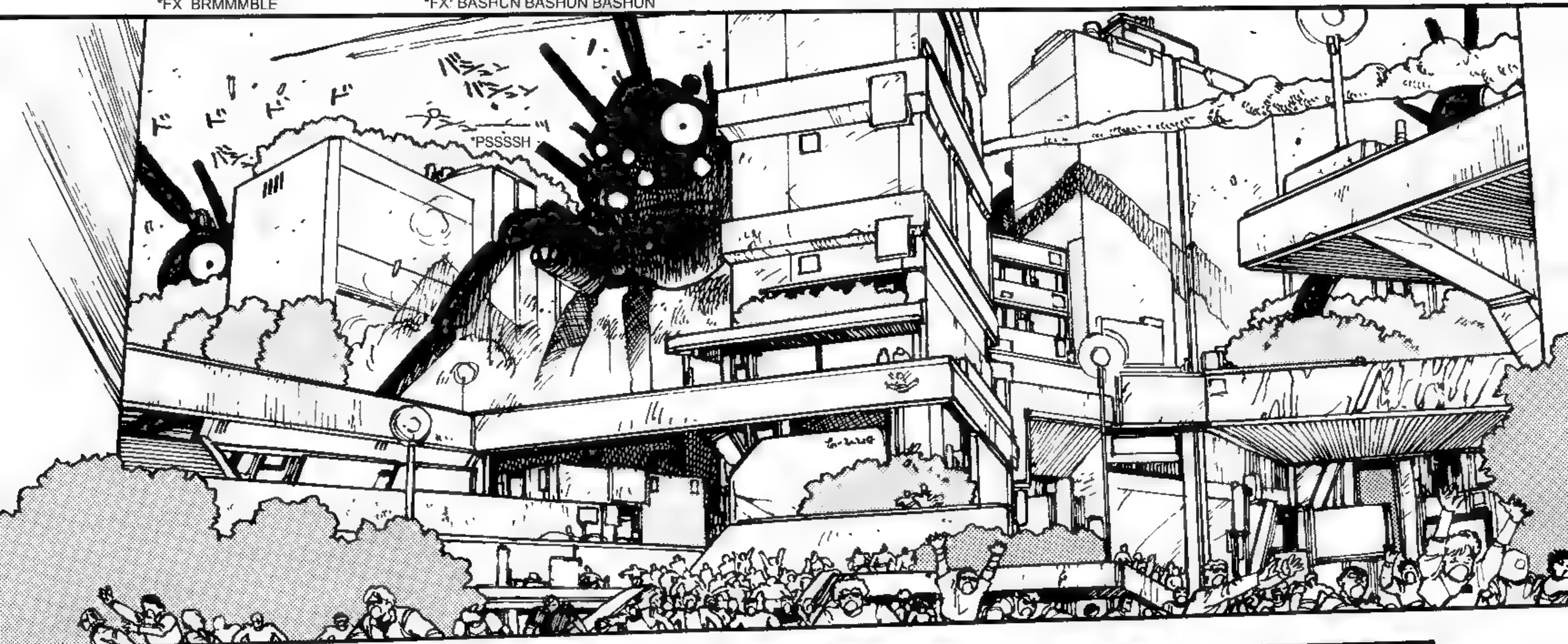


THERE'S STILL NO CHANGE IN THEIR MOVEMENTS, EVEN WITH THE COMMUNICATION GRID OUT?!



\*FX BRMMBLE

\*FX: BASHUN BASHUN BASHUN



WE CAN'T GET THROUGH HERE IN THESE SUITS! WOULDN'T IT MAKE MORE SENSE TO GO BACK TOPSIDE?



I SWITCHED OVER TO MY INNER EAR.

HOW'S YOUR GYRO, BRI?



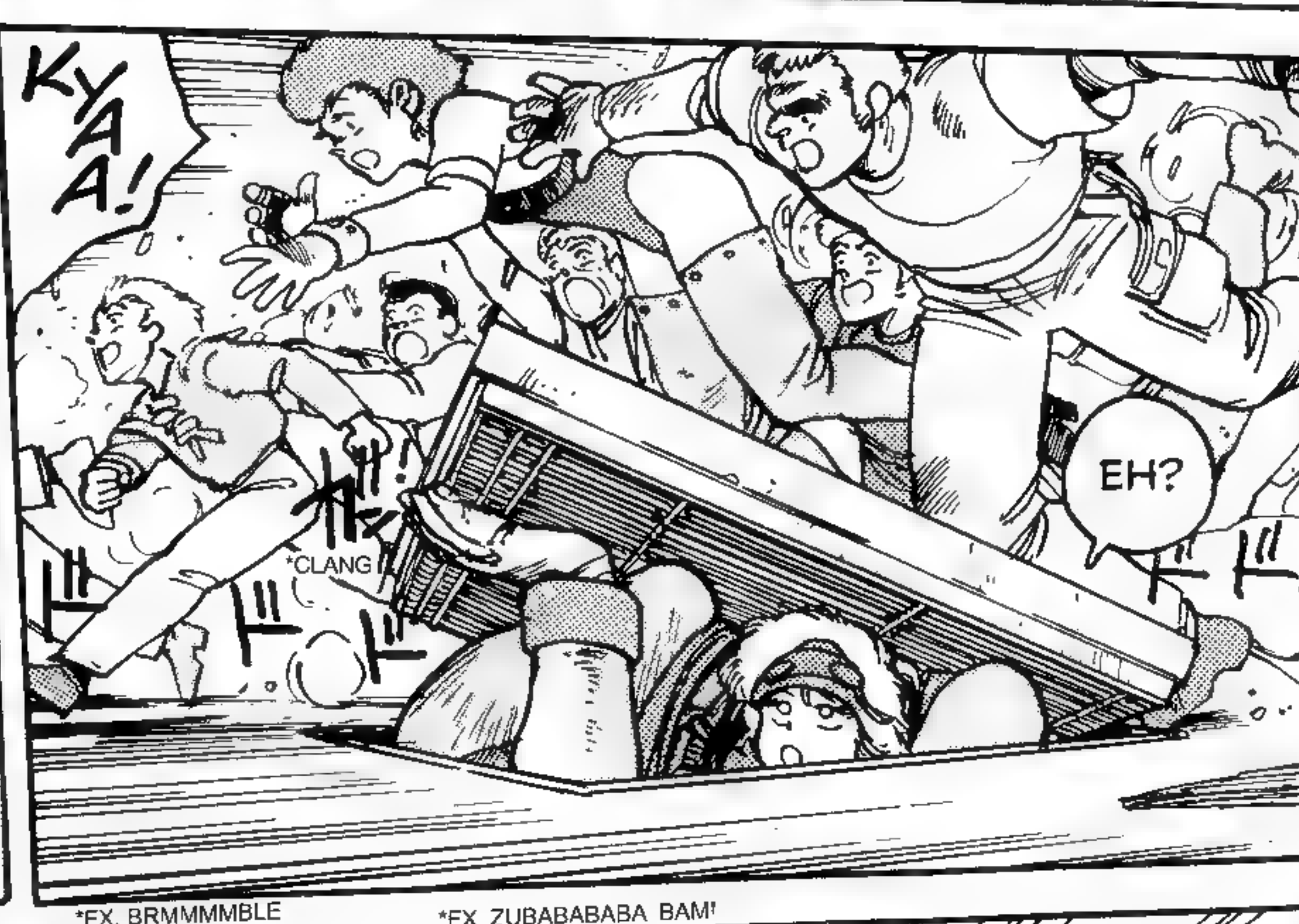
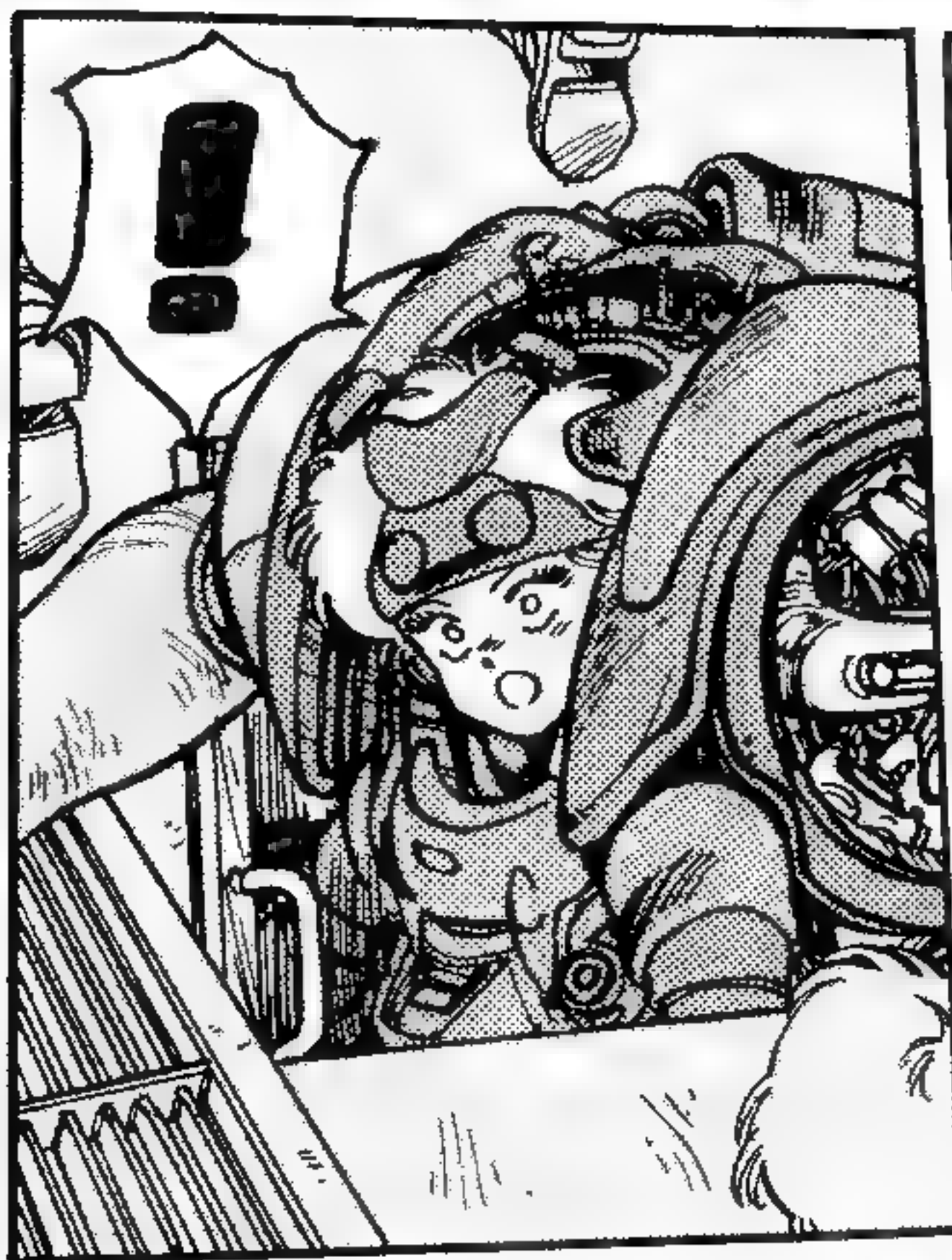
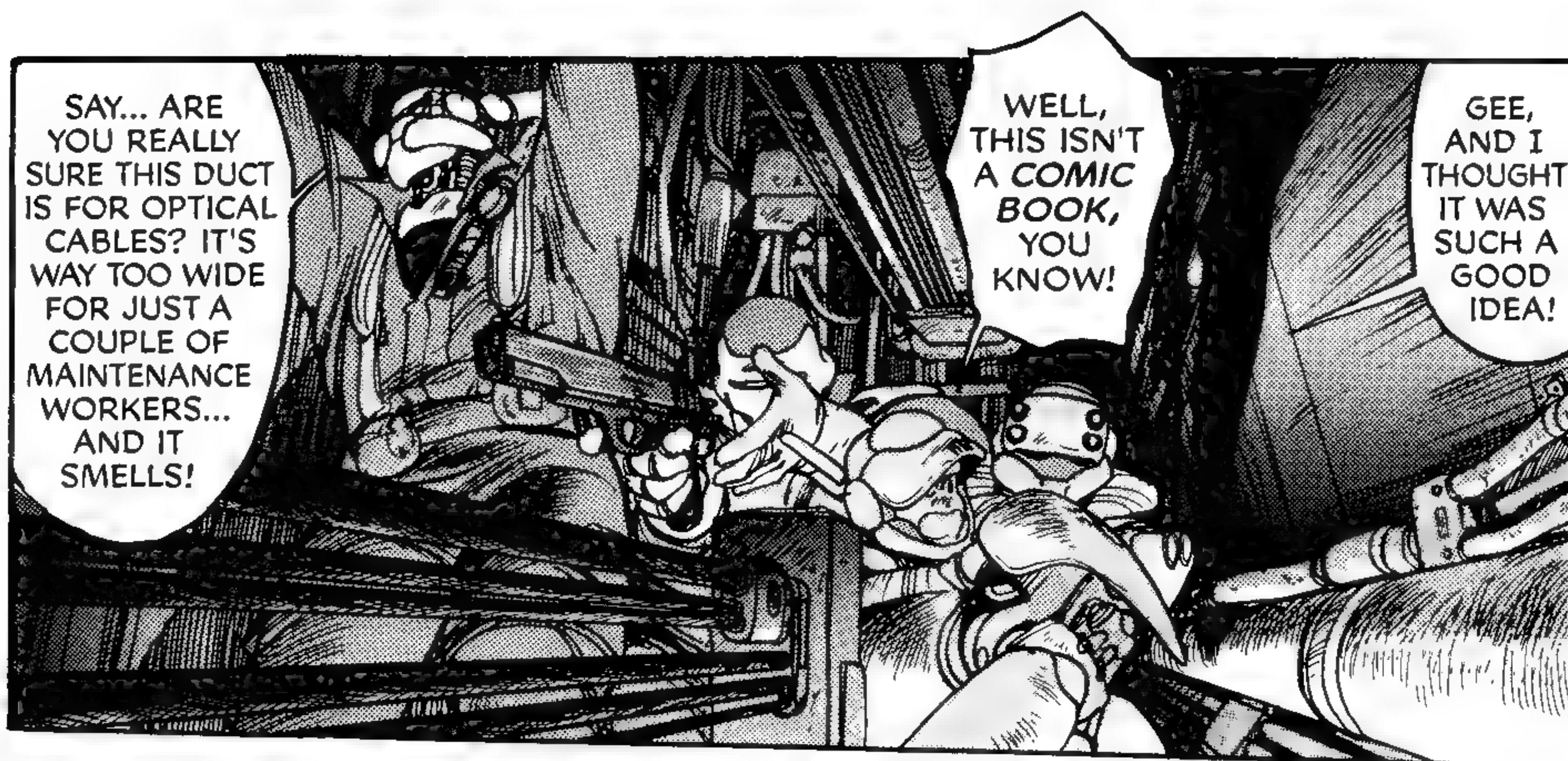
WELL, AT LEAST THIS IS CLEANER THAN A SEWER!

TANG! KARA KARA

SHU SHU SHU SHU



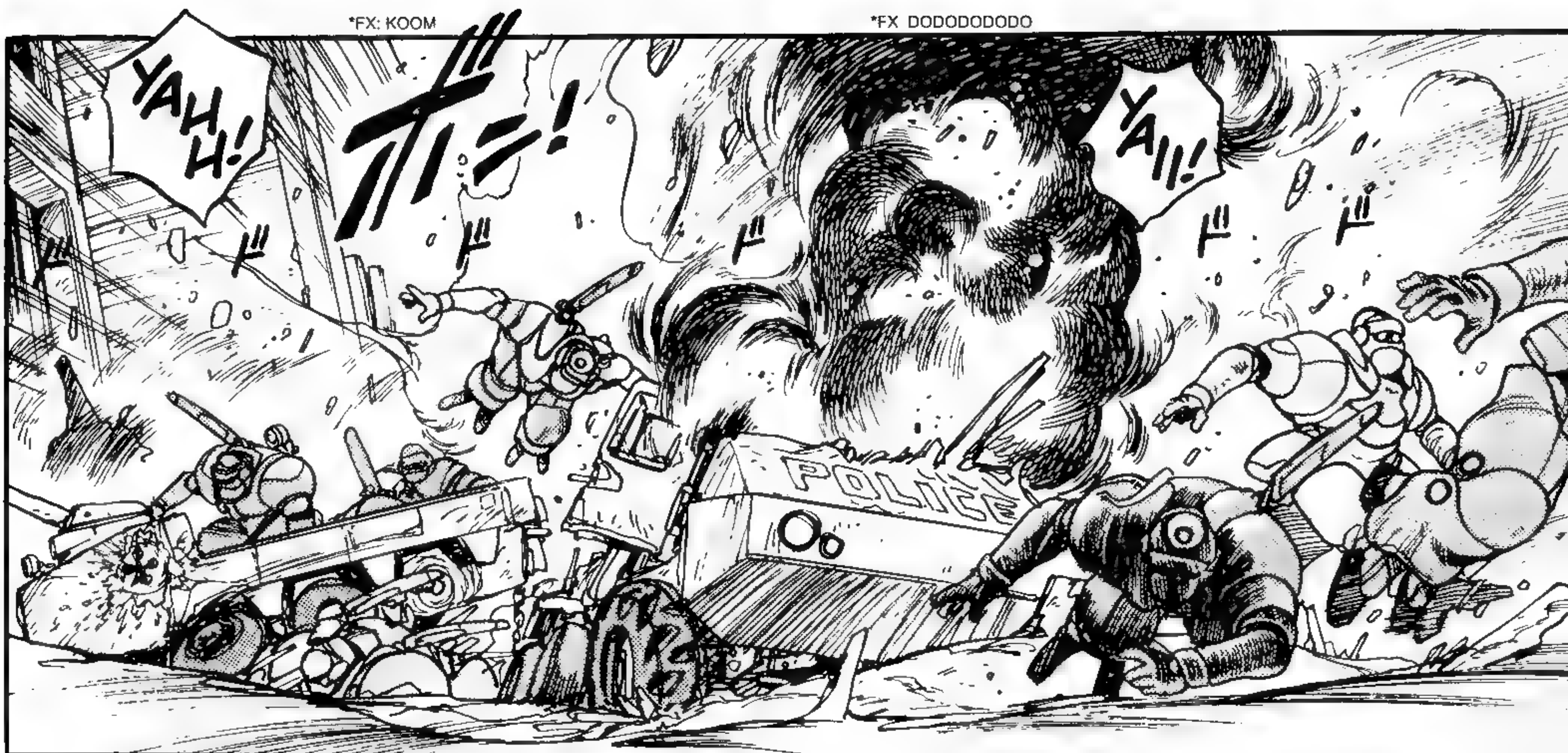




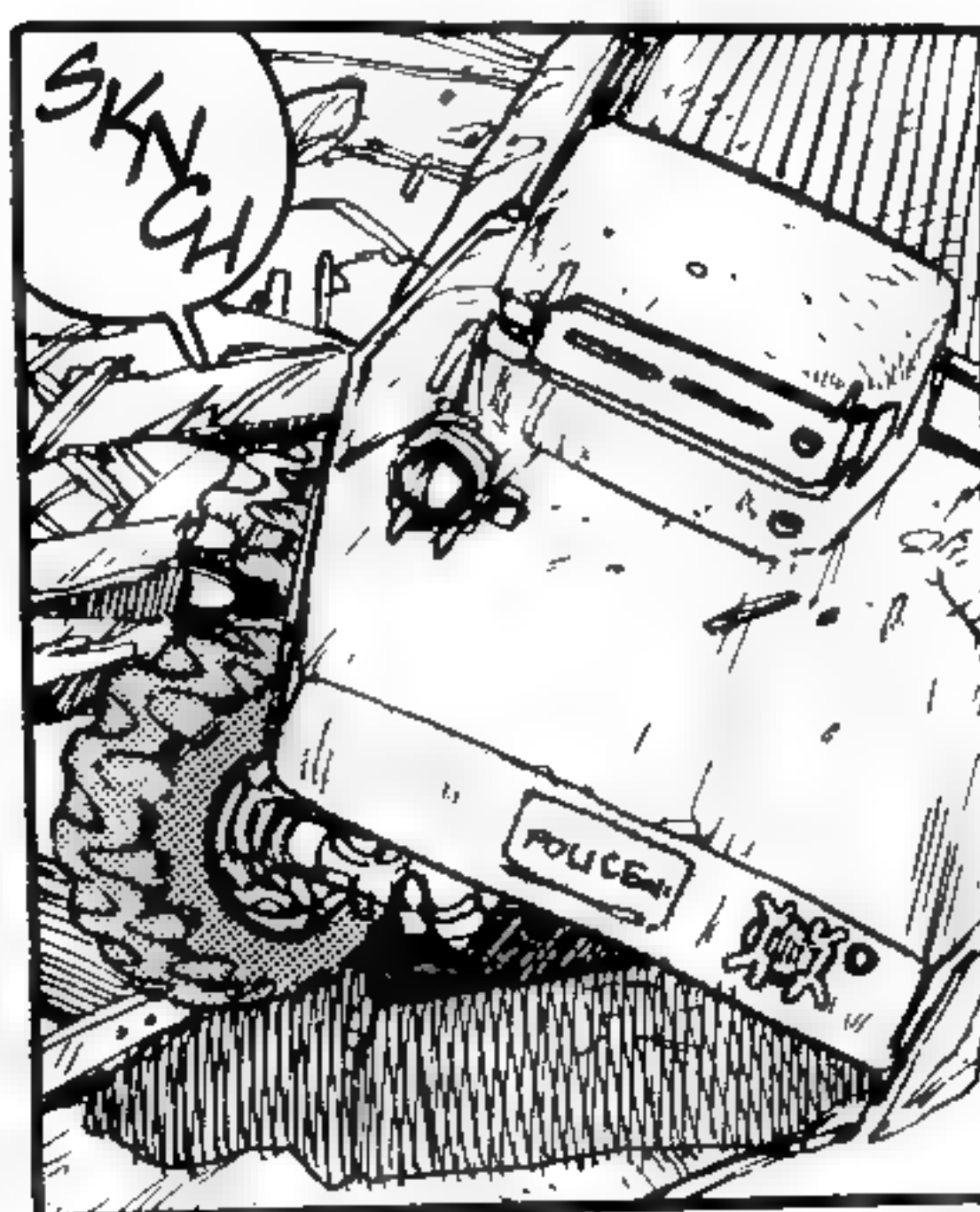
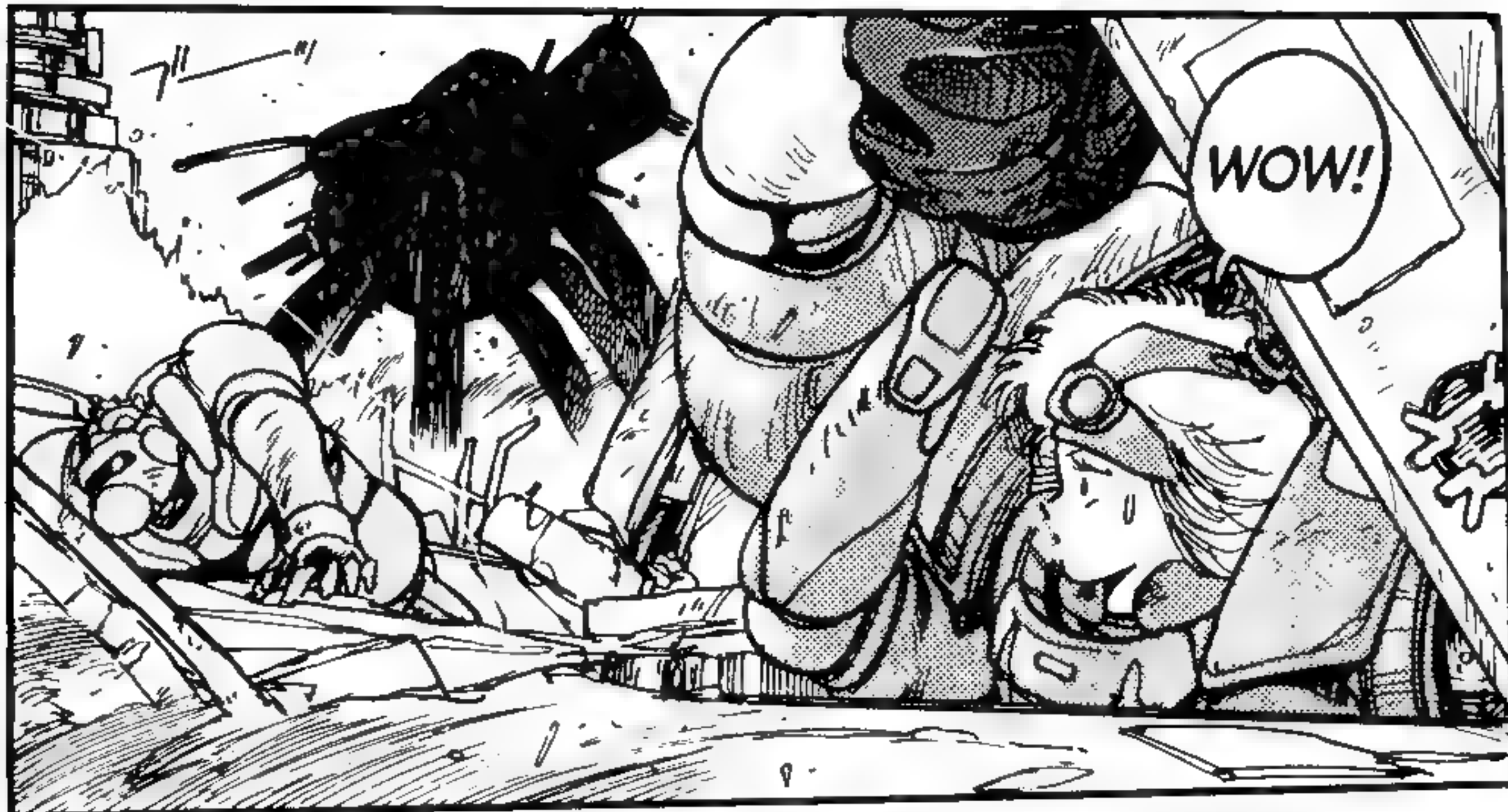


\*FX: KOOM

\*FX DODODODODO



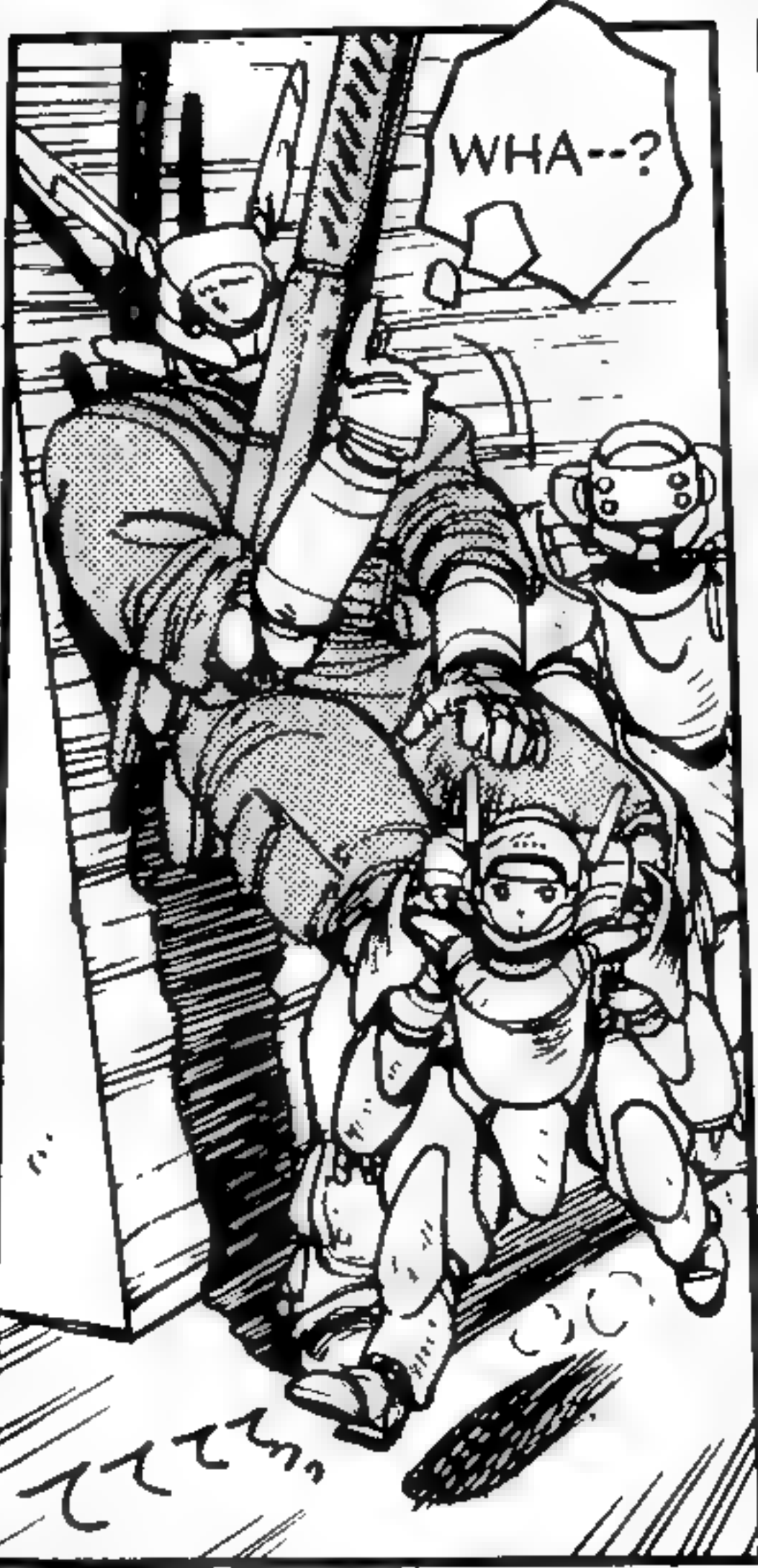
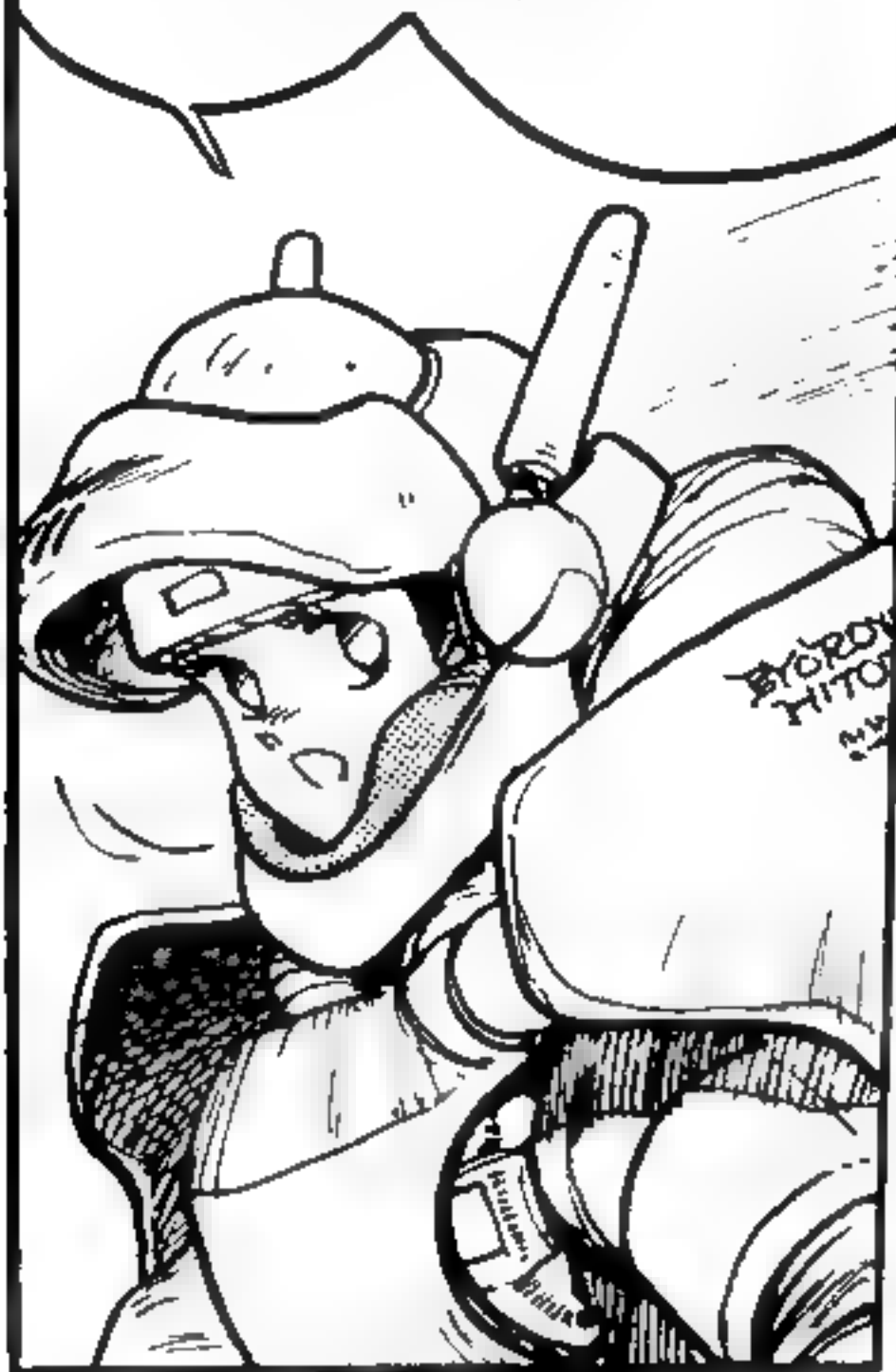
\*FX VRTTT



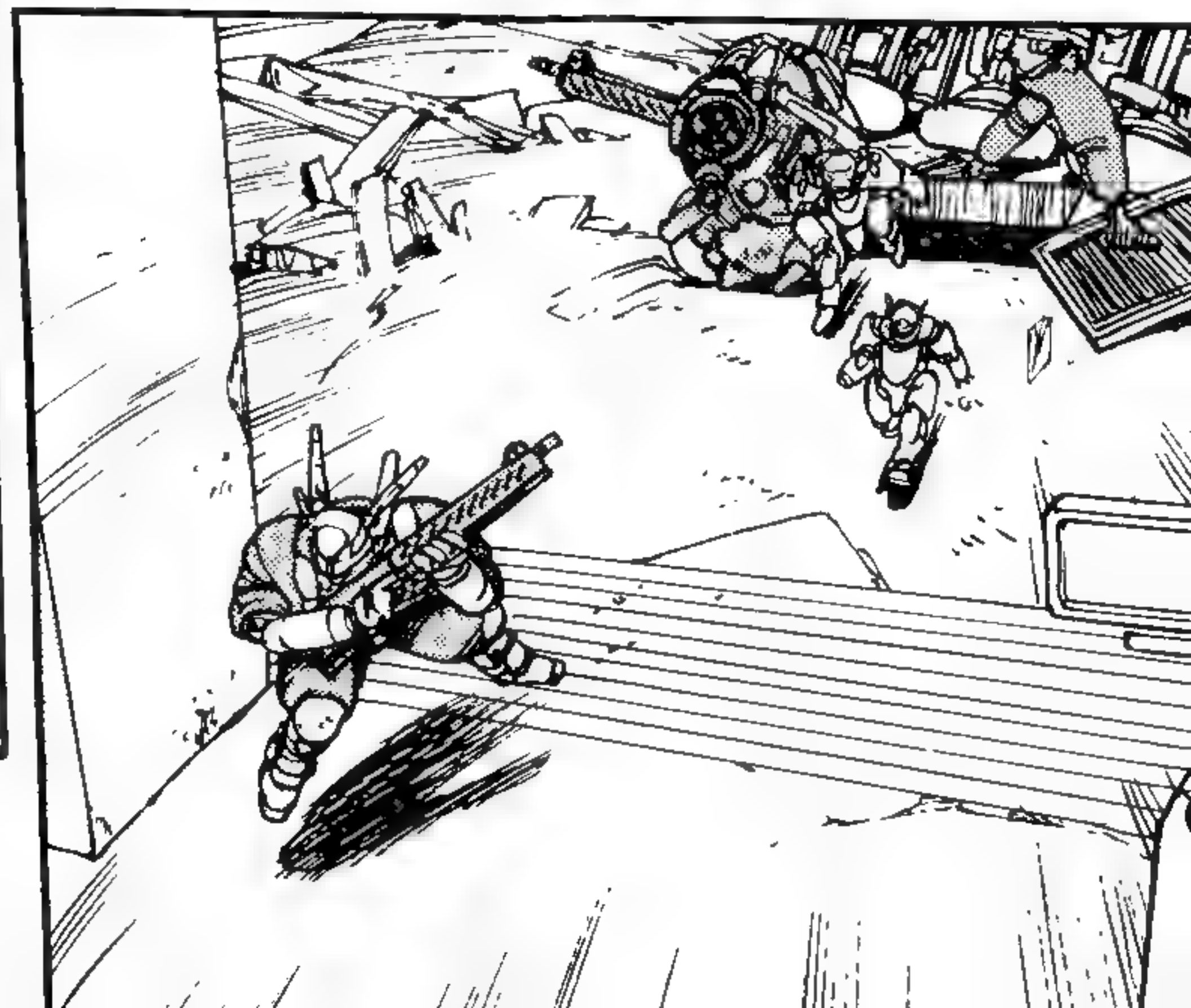
\*FX ZA



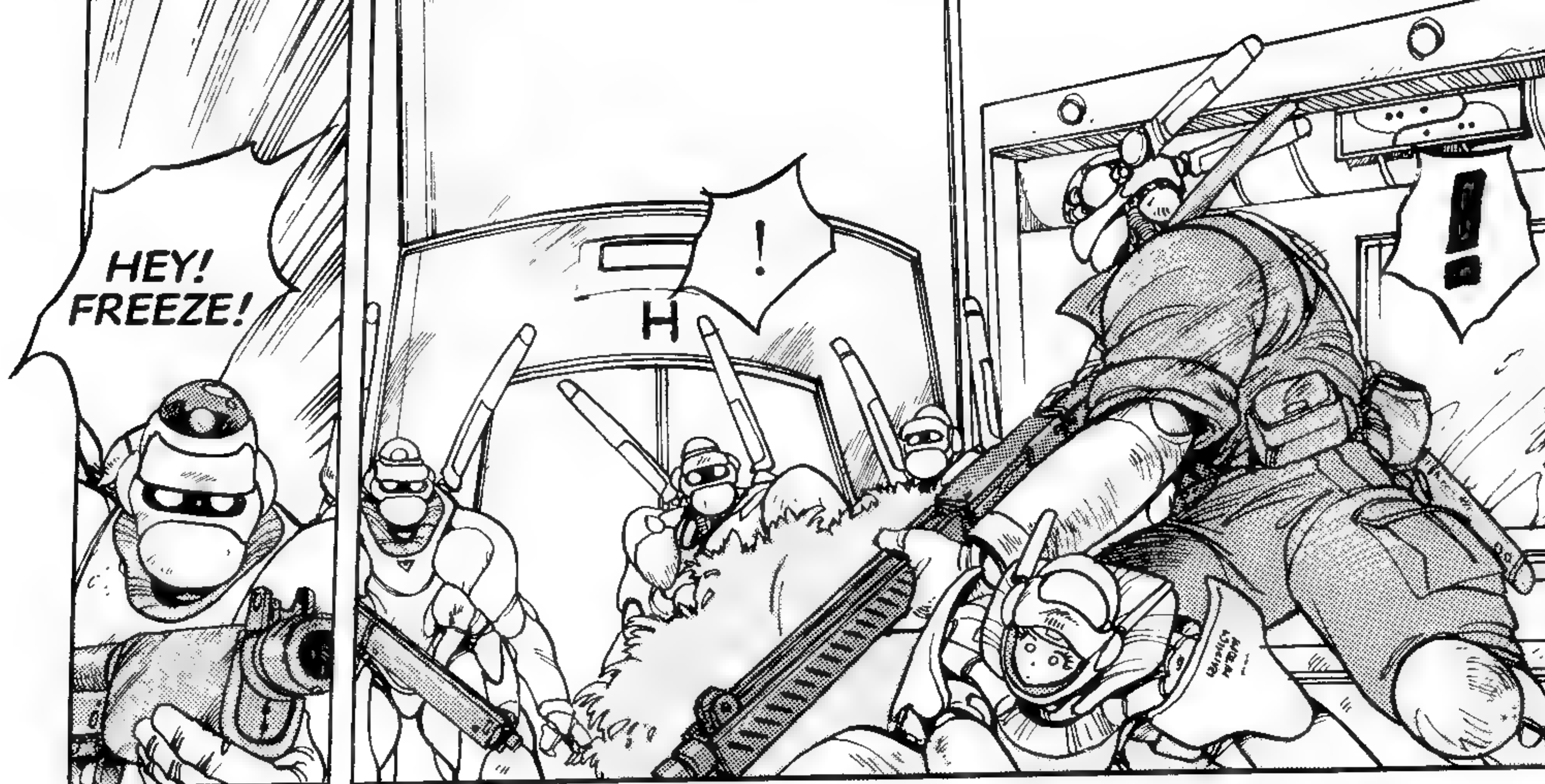
ACTUALLY, THERE'S  
A WHOLE BUNCH  
OF "H BLOCKS."  
THEY CALL THEM  
LOCKBOXES--  
ONE'S RIGHT OVER  
THERE.



\*FX TP TP TP TP







\*FX BRTTT BRRT

\*FX BAM BAM BAM

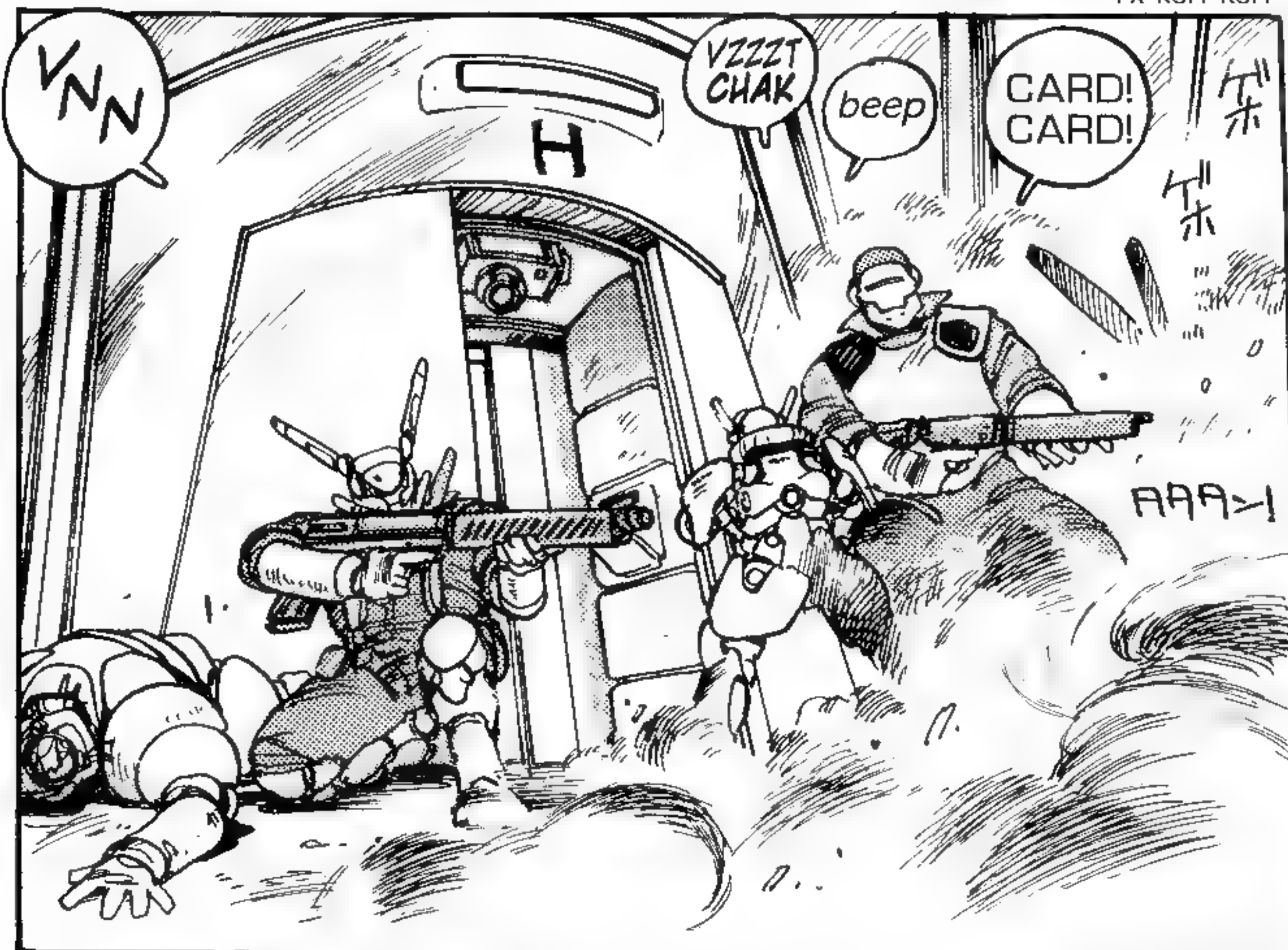


\*FX POW

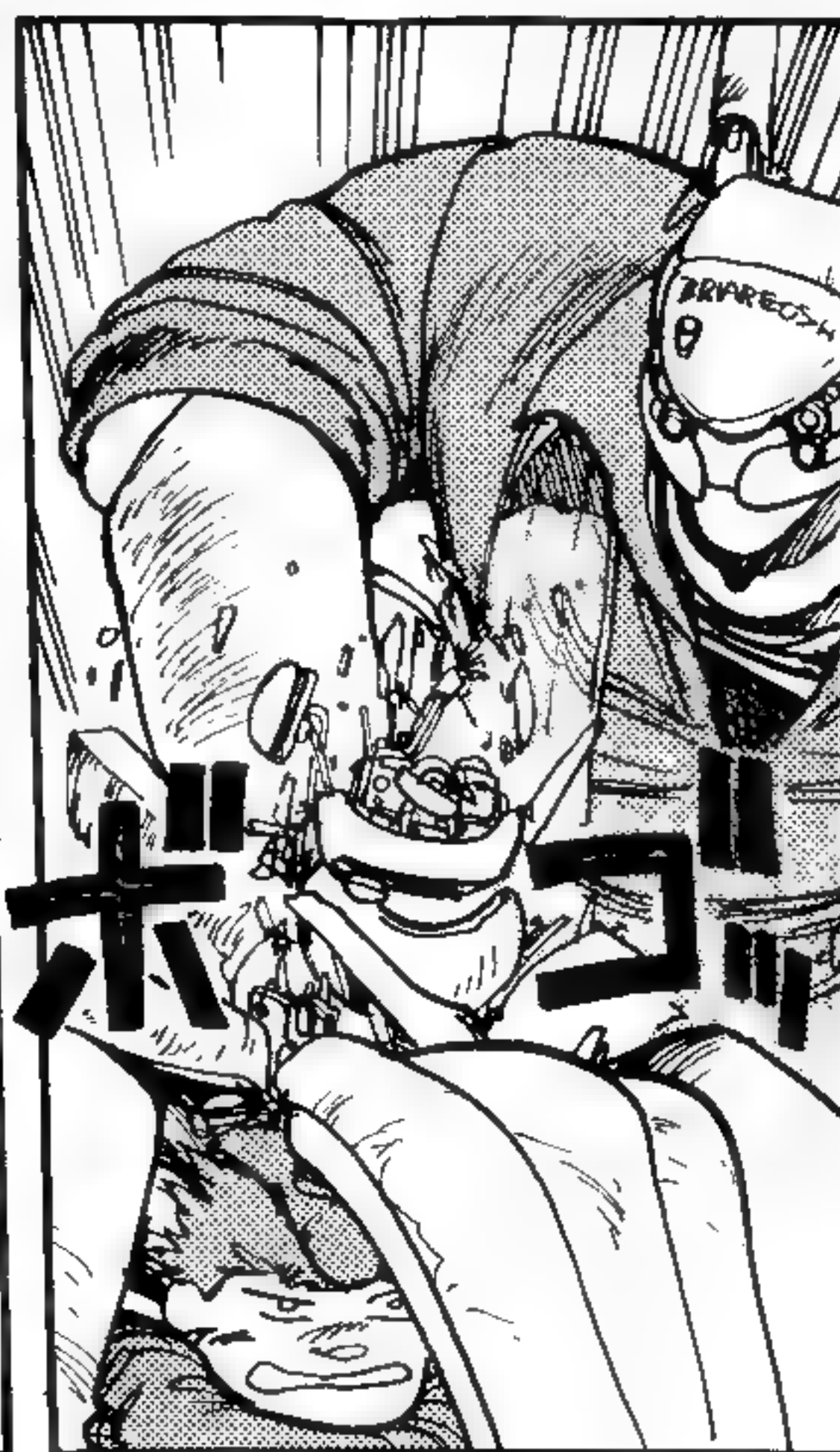


\*FX: SPAK SPAK

\*FX KOFF KOFF

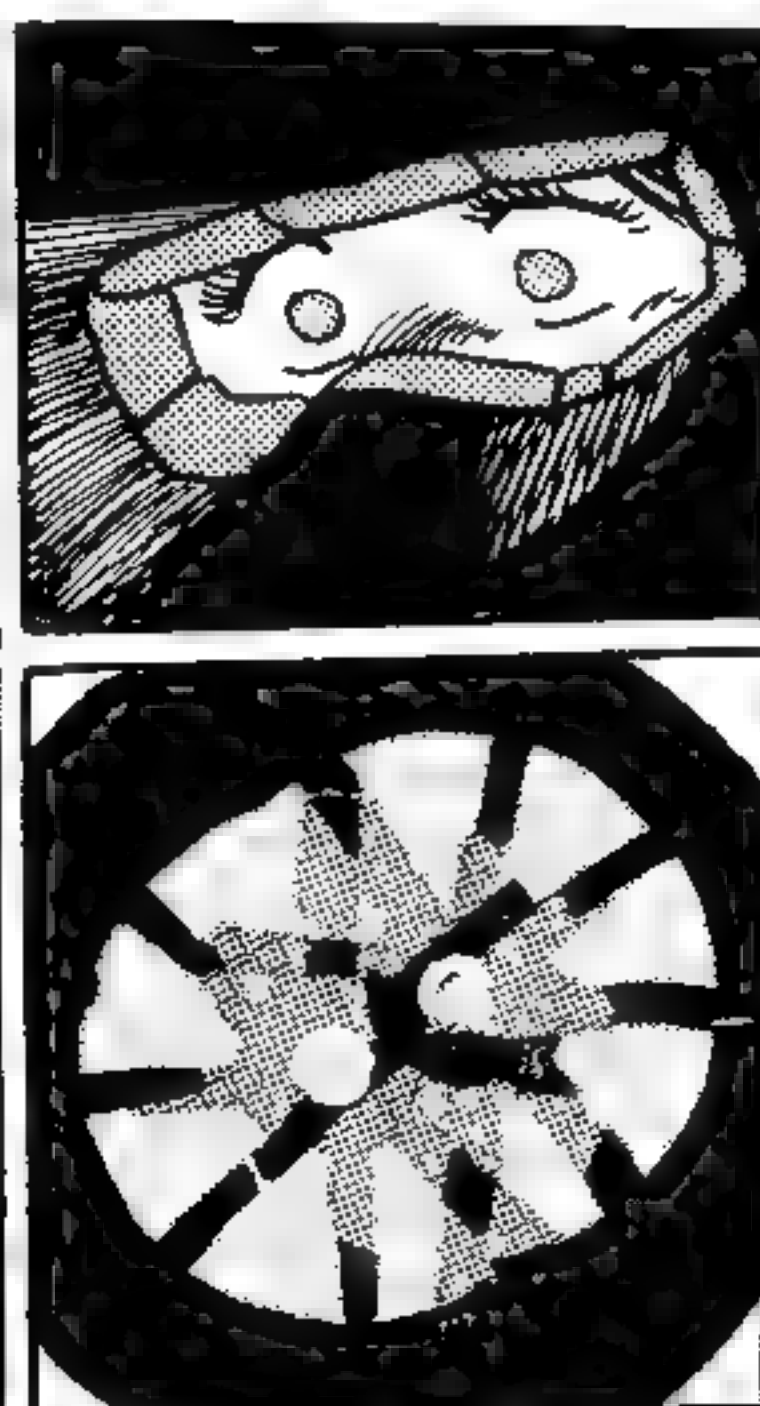
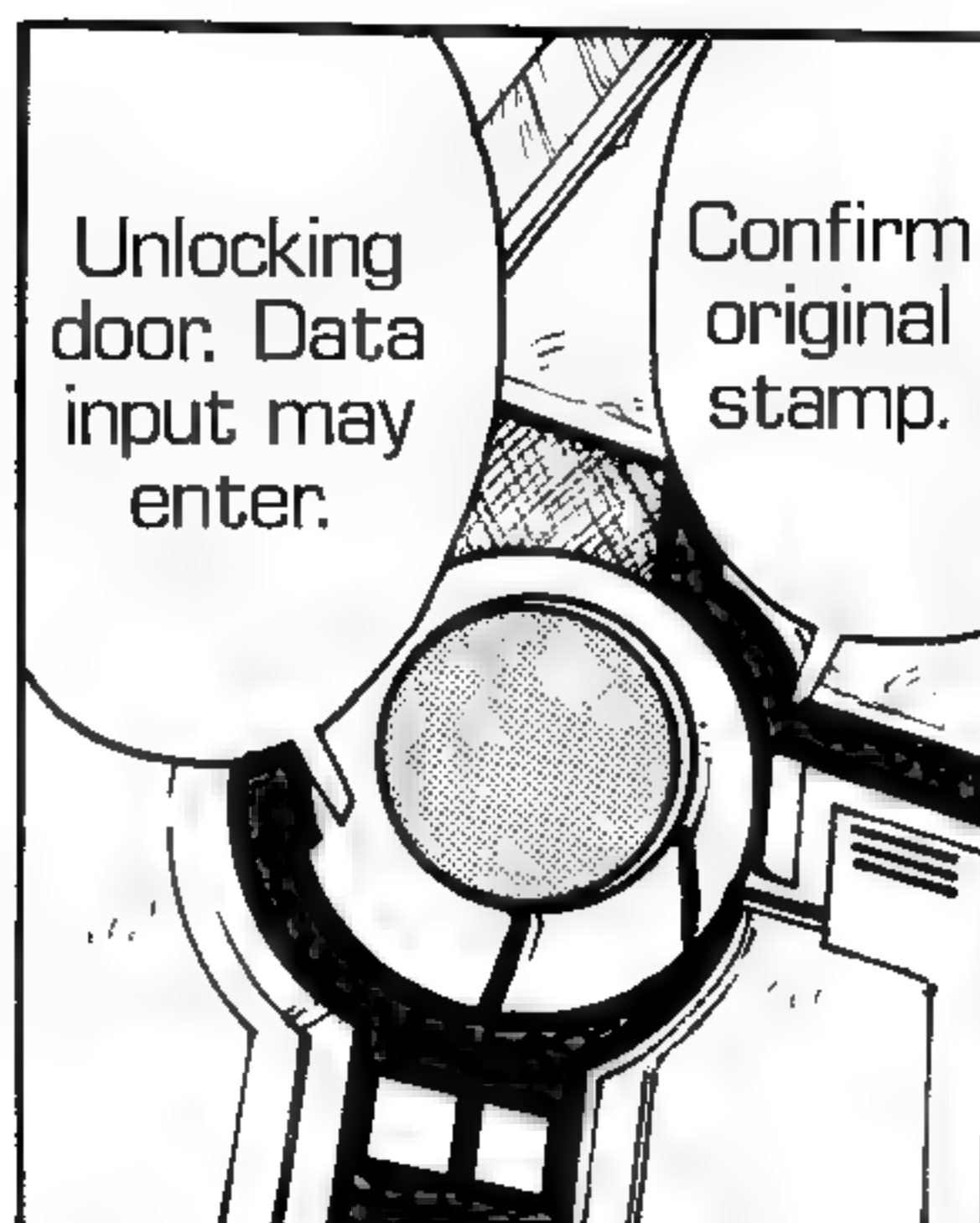


\*FX. BRTTT



\*FX SKRAK

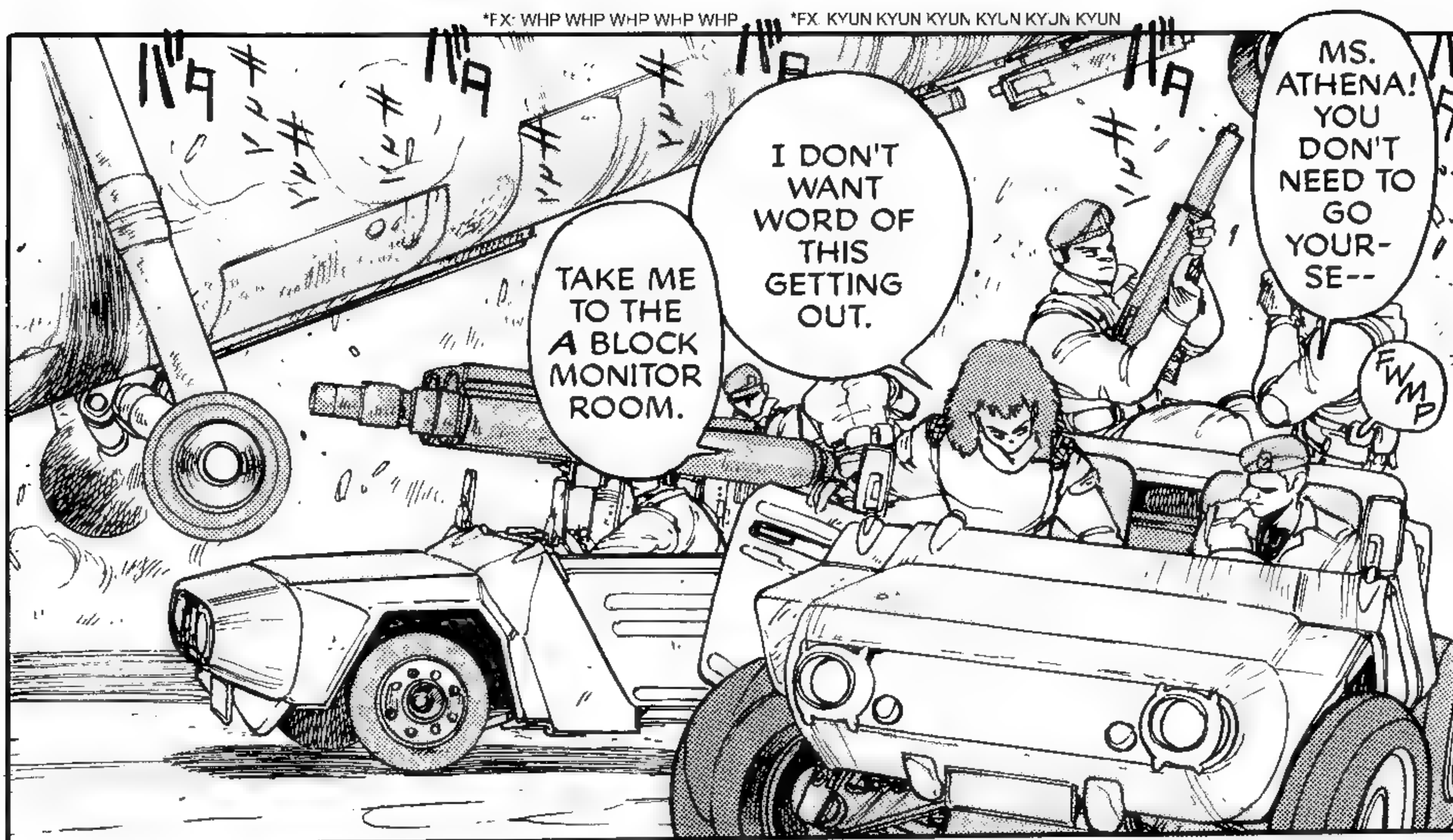




\*sign: PROTECTION LEVEL AX





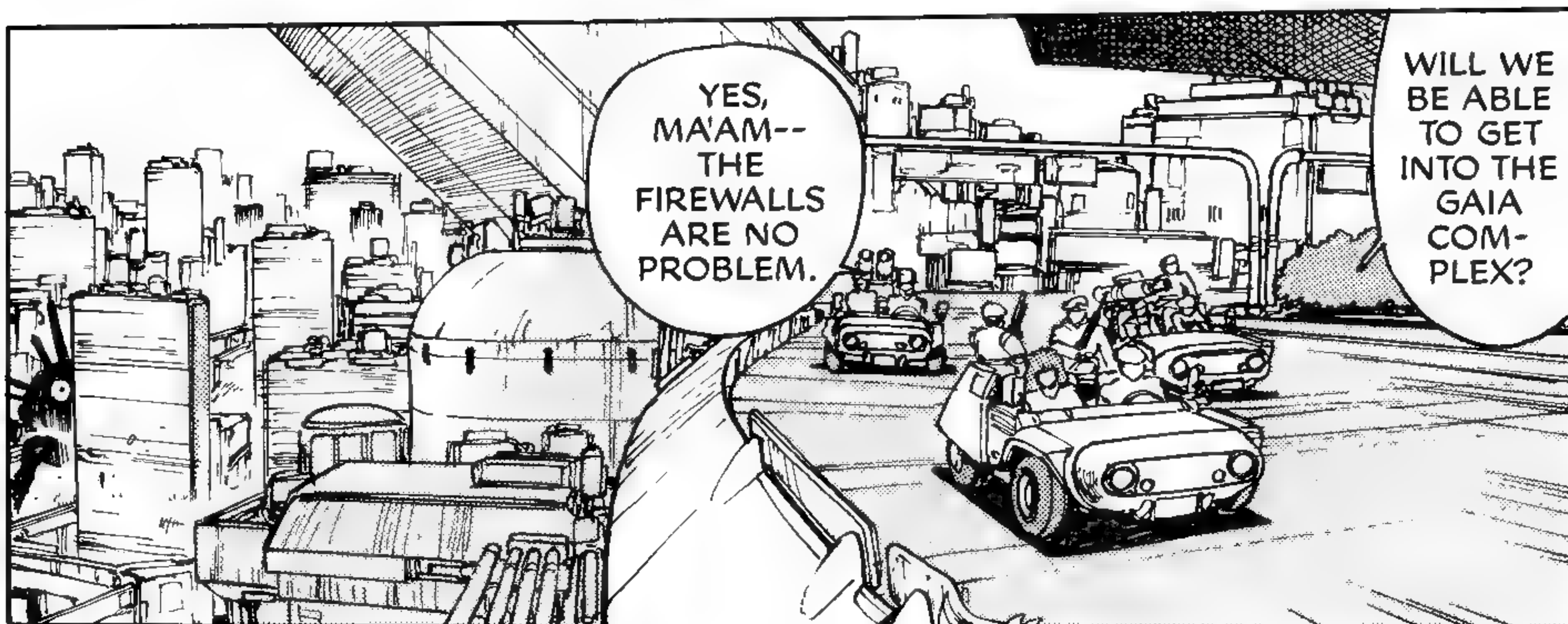


TAKE ME  
TO THE  
A BLOCK  
MONITOR  
ROOM.

I DON'T  
WANT  
WORD OF  
THIS  
GETTING  
OUT.

MS.  
ATHENA!  
YOU  
DON'T  
NEED TO  
GO  
YOUR-  
SE--

FWMP

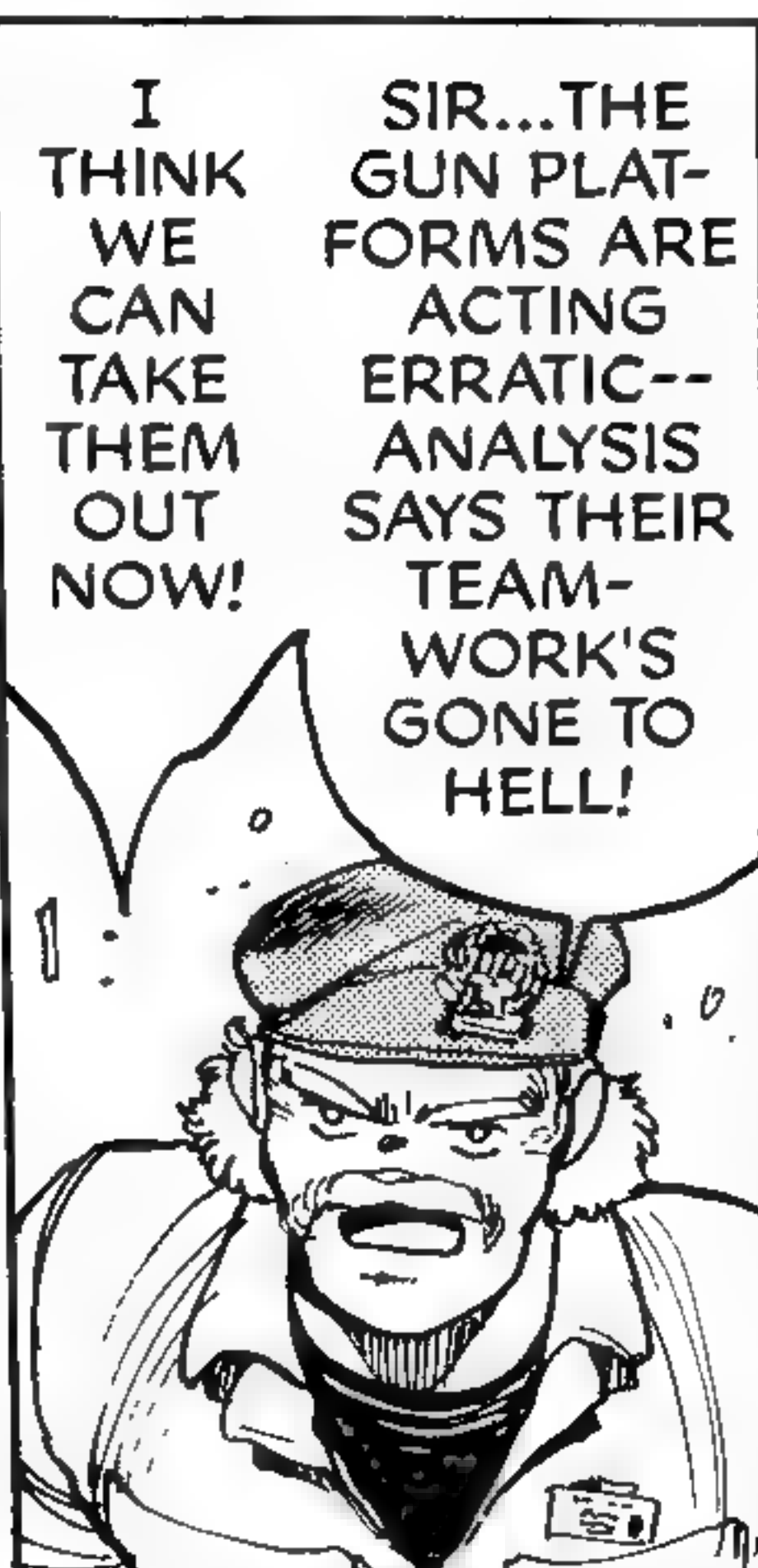


YES,  
MA'AM--  
THE  
FIREWALLS  
ARE NO  
PROBLEM.

WILL WE  
BE ABLE  
TO GET  
INTO THE  
GAIA  
COM-  
PLEX?



WHAT?



I  
THINK  
WE  
CAN  
TAKE  
THEM  
OUT  
NOW!

SIR...THE  
GUN PLAT-  
FORMS ARE  
ACTING  
ERRATIC--  
ANALYSIS  
SAYS THEIR  
TEAM-  
WORK'S  
GONE TO  
HELL!



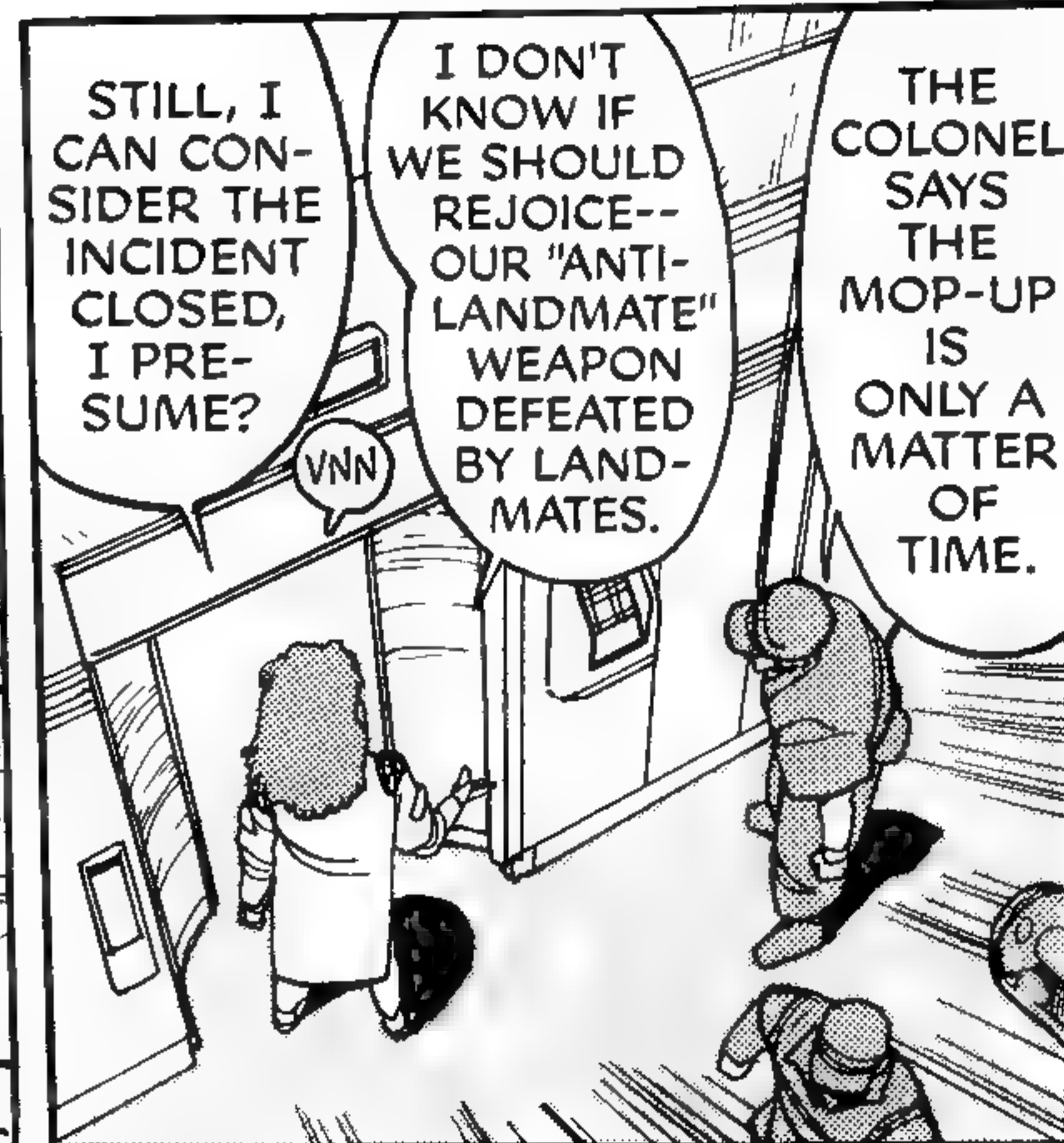
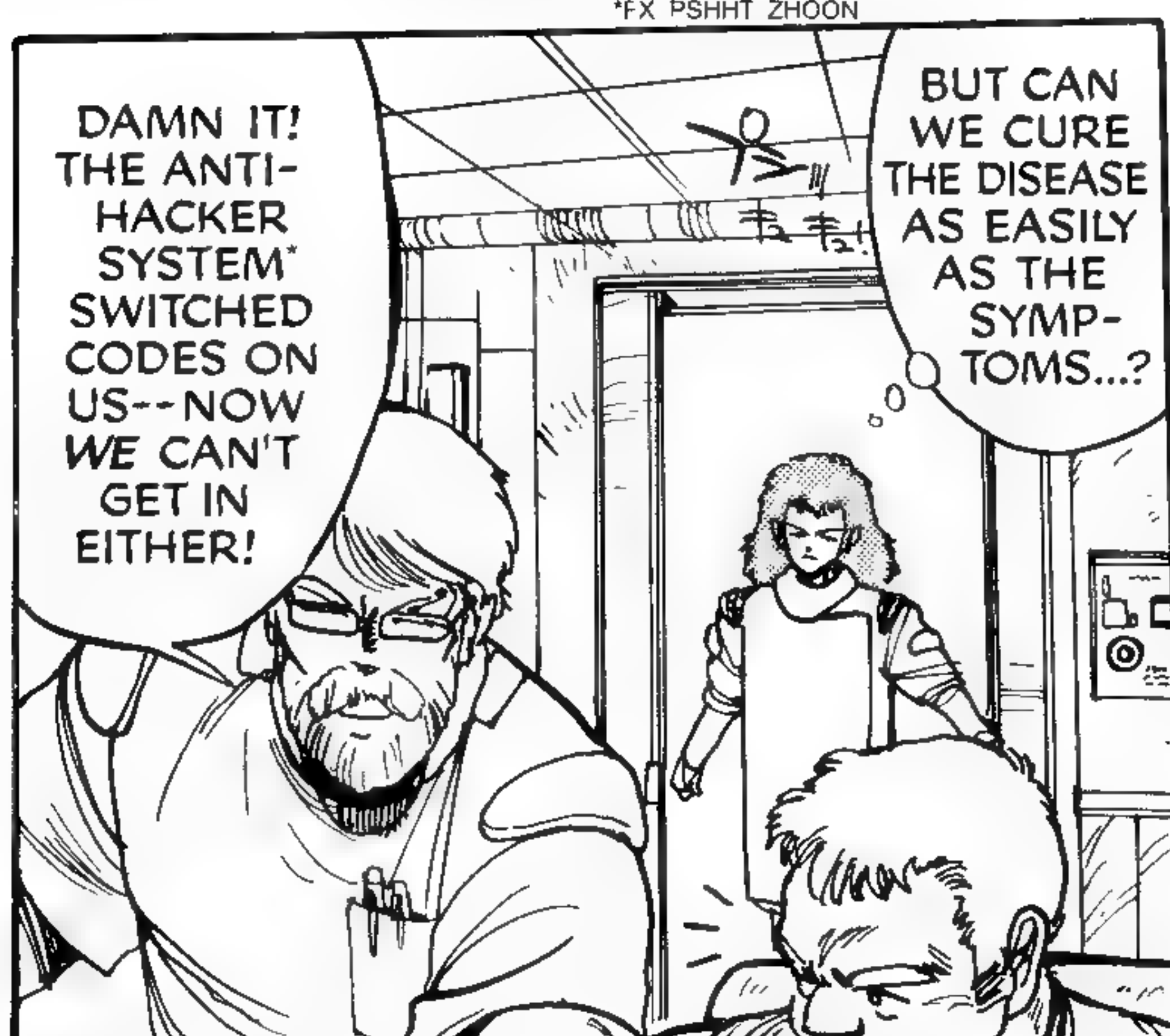
APPLY FOR  
PERMISSION TO  
BLOW GAIA! GET  
READY TO SHUT  
HER DOWN WHILE  
WE'RE WATCHING OR  
WE'LL NEVER MAKE  
IT. AND GET ME  
ATHENA,  
FAST!

COLONEL!



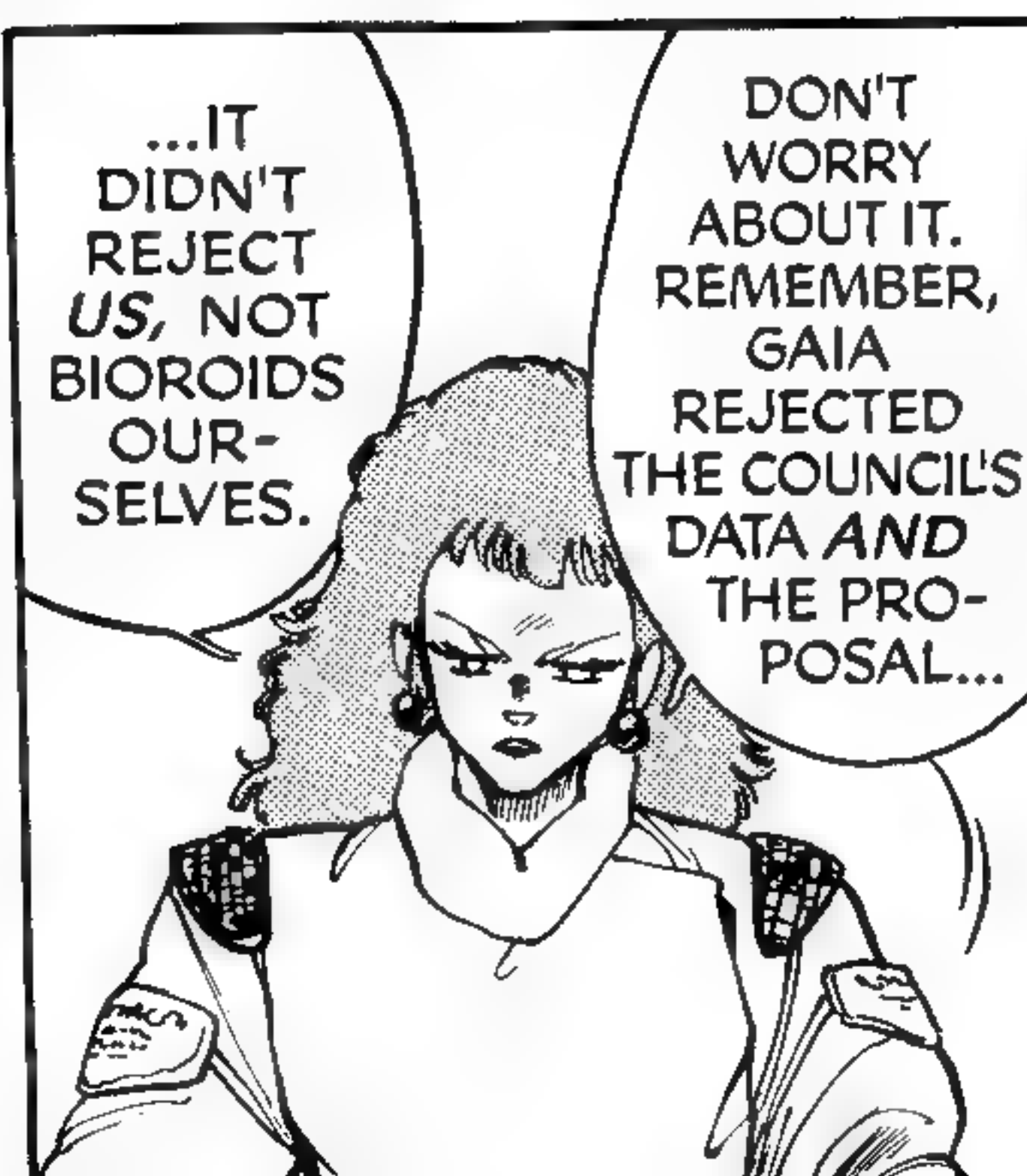
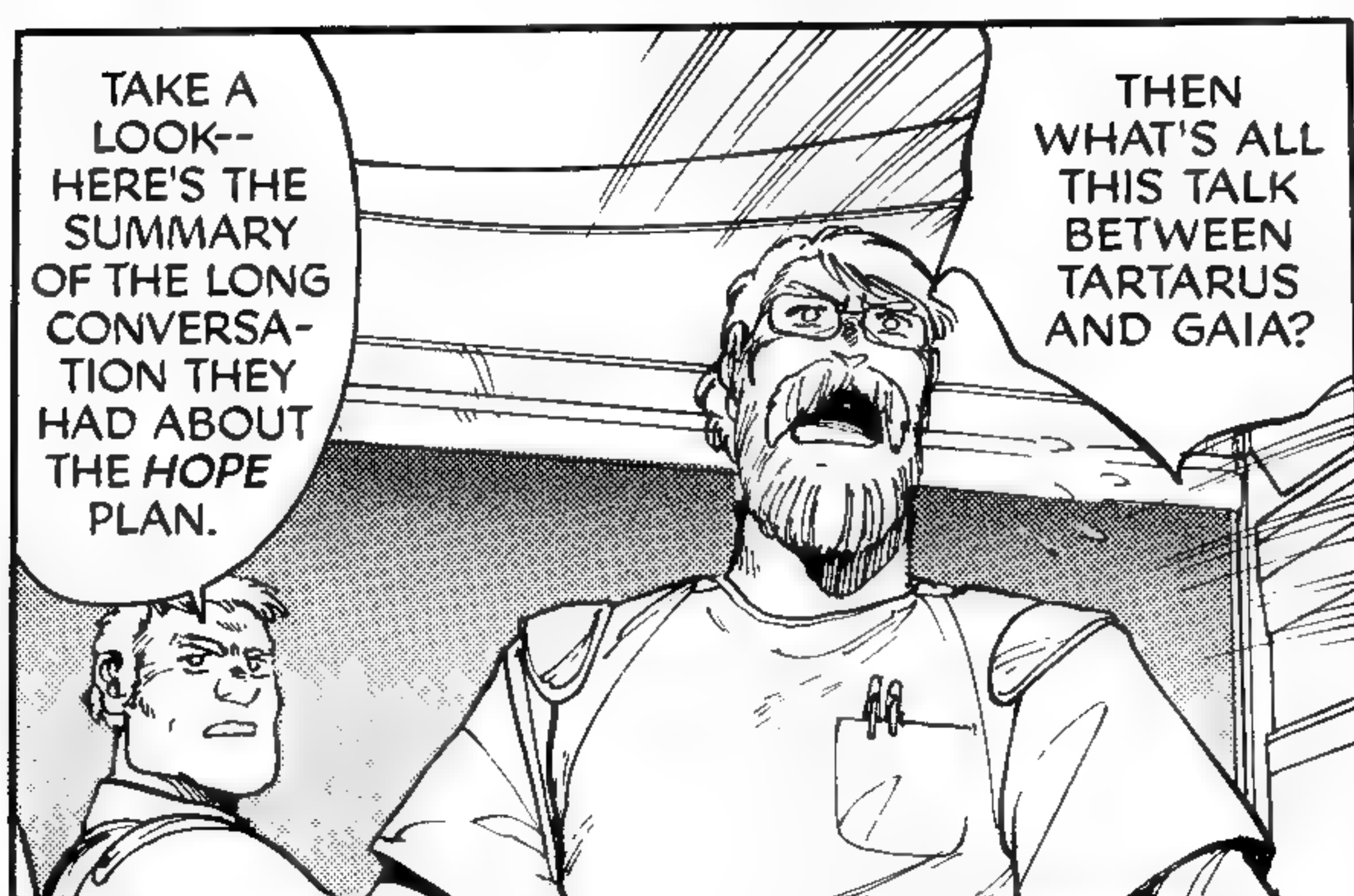


\*FX PSHT ZHOON

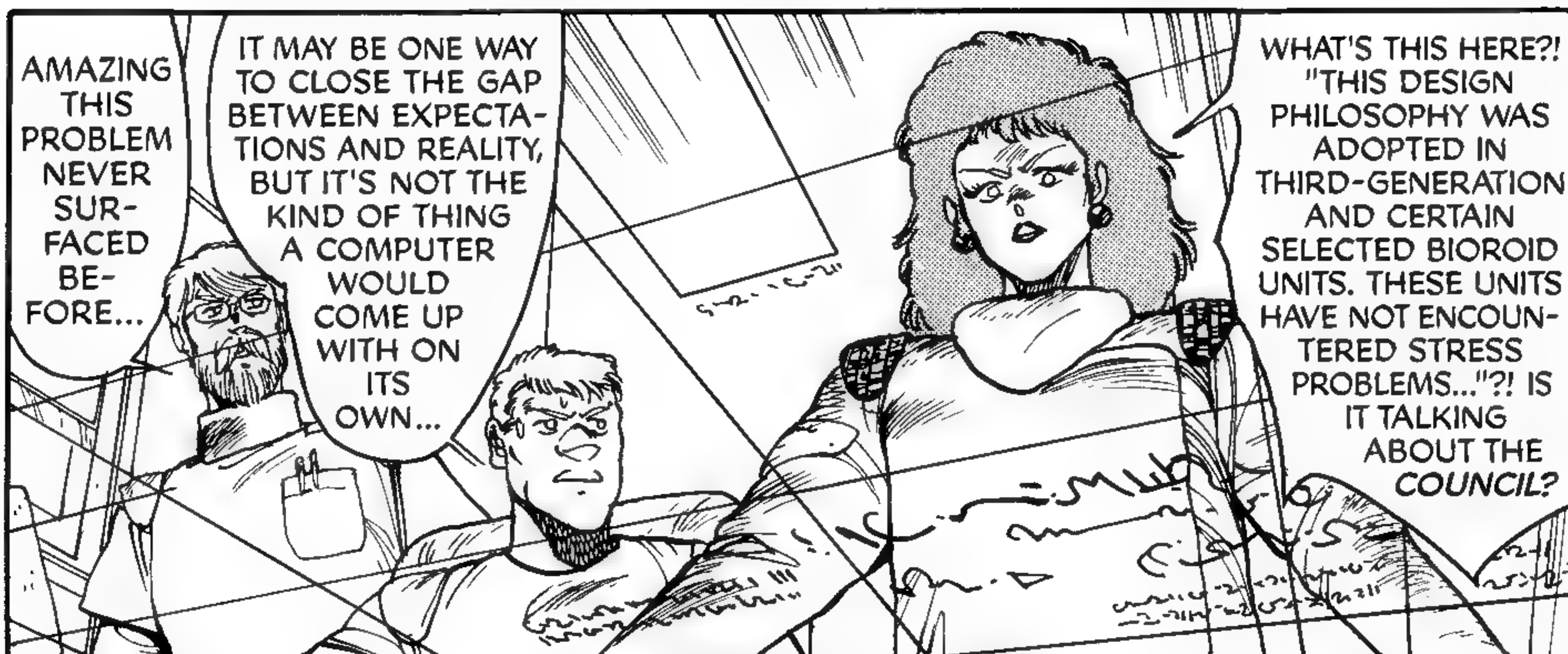


\*anti-hacker system: A system to defend against unauthorized intrusion into, manipulation of, and data retrieval from computer circuits.









AMAZING  
THIS  
PROBLEM  
NEVER  
SUR-  
FACED  
BE-  
FORE...

IT MAY BE ONE WAY  
TO CLOSE THE GAP  
BETWEEN EXPECTA-  
TIONS AND REALITY,  
BUT IT'S NOT THE  
KIND OF THING  
A COMPUTER  
WOULD  
COME UP  
WITH ON  
ITS  
OWN...

WHAT'S THIS HERE?!  
"THIS DESIGN  
PHILOSOPHY WAS  
ADOPTED IN  
THIRD-GENERATION  
AND CERTAIN  
SELECTED BIOROID  
UNITS. THESE UNITS  
HAVE NOT ENCOUN-  
TERED STRESS  
PROBLEMS..."?! IS  
IT TALKING  
ABOUT THE  
COUNCIL?

THEN IT MUST  
HAVE KNOWN  
THERE WERE  
ENOUGH  
VOTES IN THE  
LEGISLATURE TO  
PASS IT, TOO.  
NO--WAIT A  
MINUTE!



SO TARTARUS  
PREDICTED THE  
COUNCIL'S  
ACTIONS? AND  
EVEN THE KIND  
OF PLAN THEY  
WOULD COME  
UP WITH?

COULD THE  
PROBLEM  
PREDATE THE  
CONSTRUCTION  
OF OLYMPUS  
ITSELF...? BUT  
THEN IT  
COULDN'T BE A  
PROGRAMMER  
PLOT AFTER  
ALL!



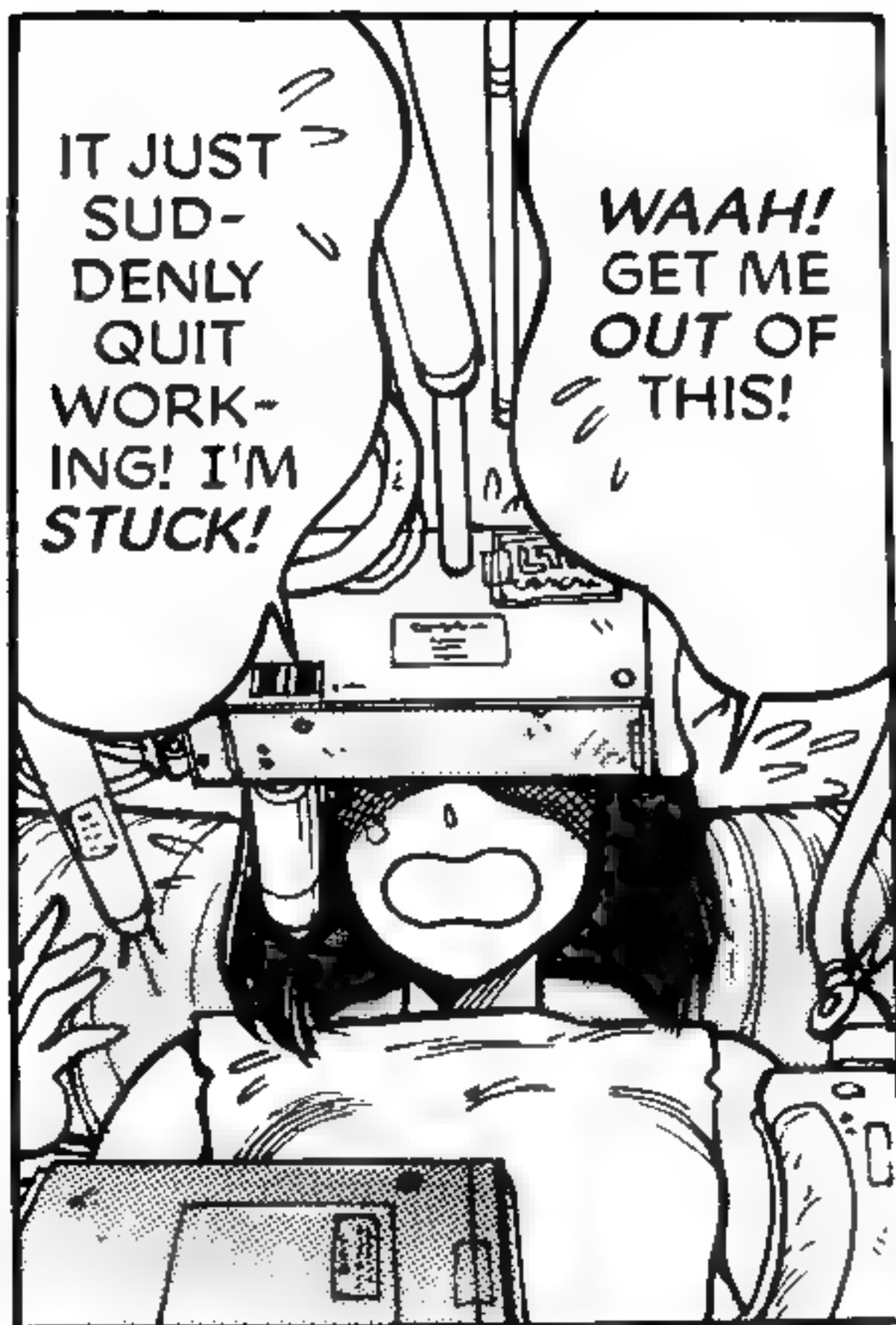
IT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE--  
THE CITY  
PLANNING  
TEAM PRO-  
GRAMMERS  
COULDN'T  
HAVE STAGED  
THE WHOLE  
THING...THE  
SACRIFICES  
WERE TOO  
GREAT!

CAN'T  
WE EVER  
RETURN  
TO  
EDEN?!

HAVE WE  
REACHED  
OUR  
LIMITS?  
BOTH  
BIOROIDS  
AND  
HUMANS?

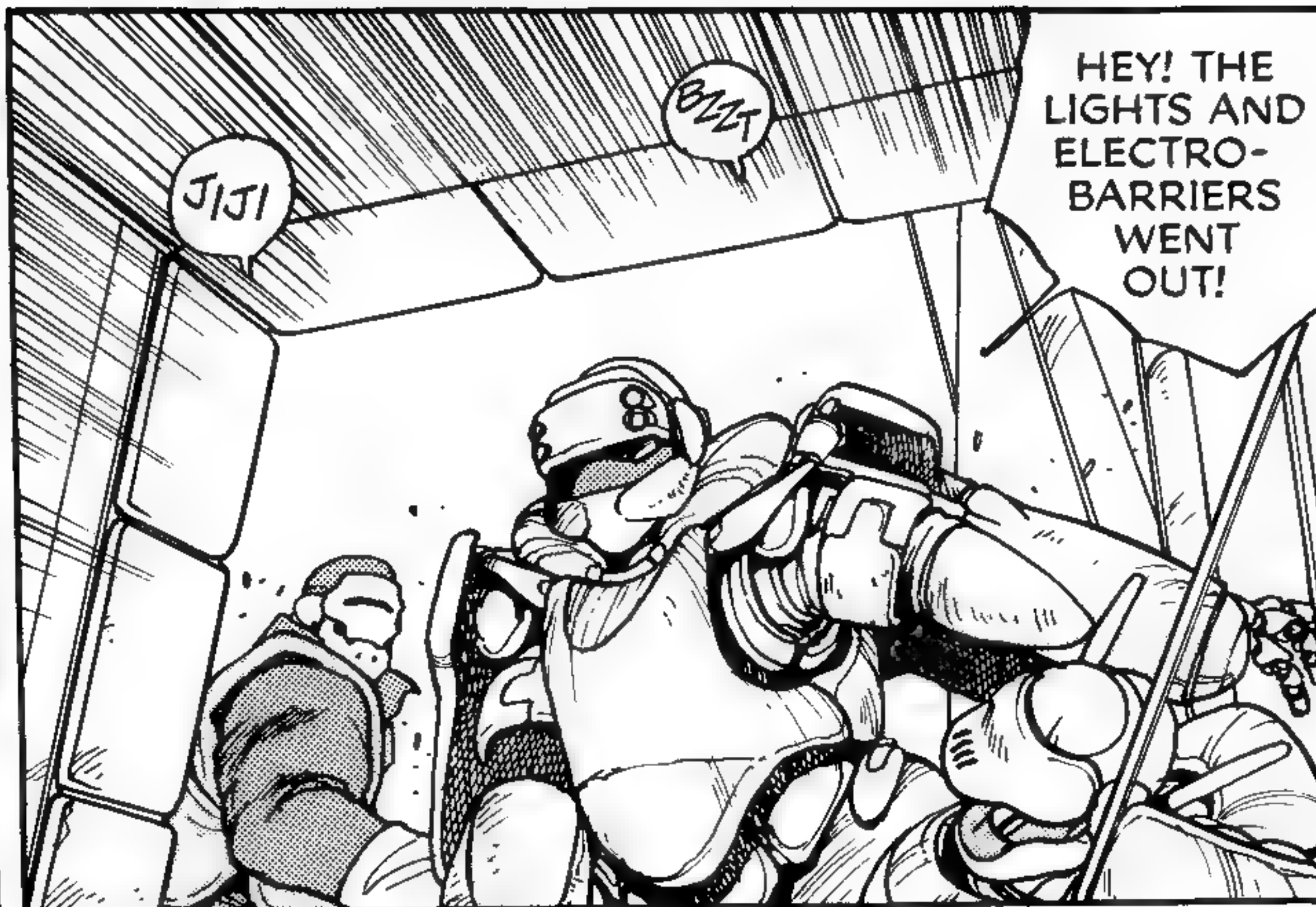






IT JUST  
SUD-  
DENLY  
QUIT  
WORK-  
ING! I'M  
STUCK!

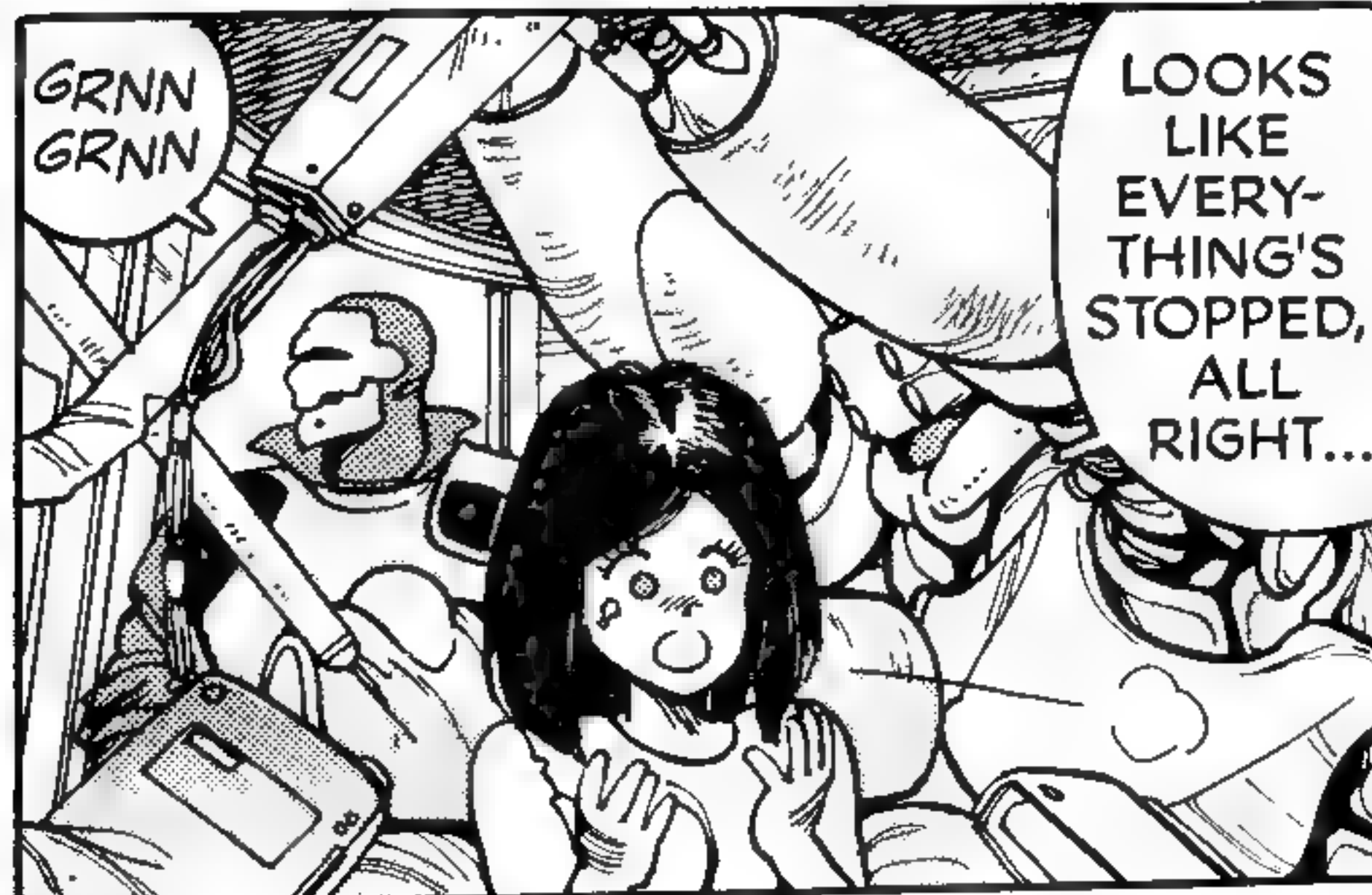
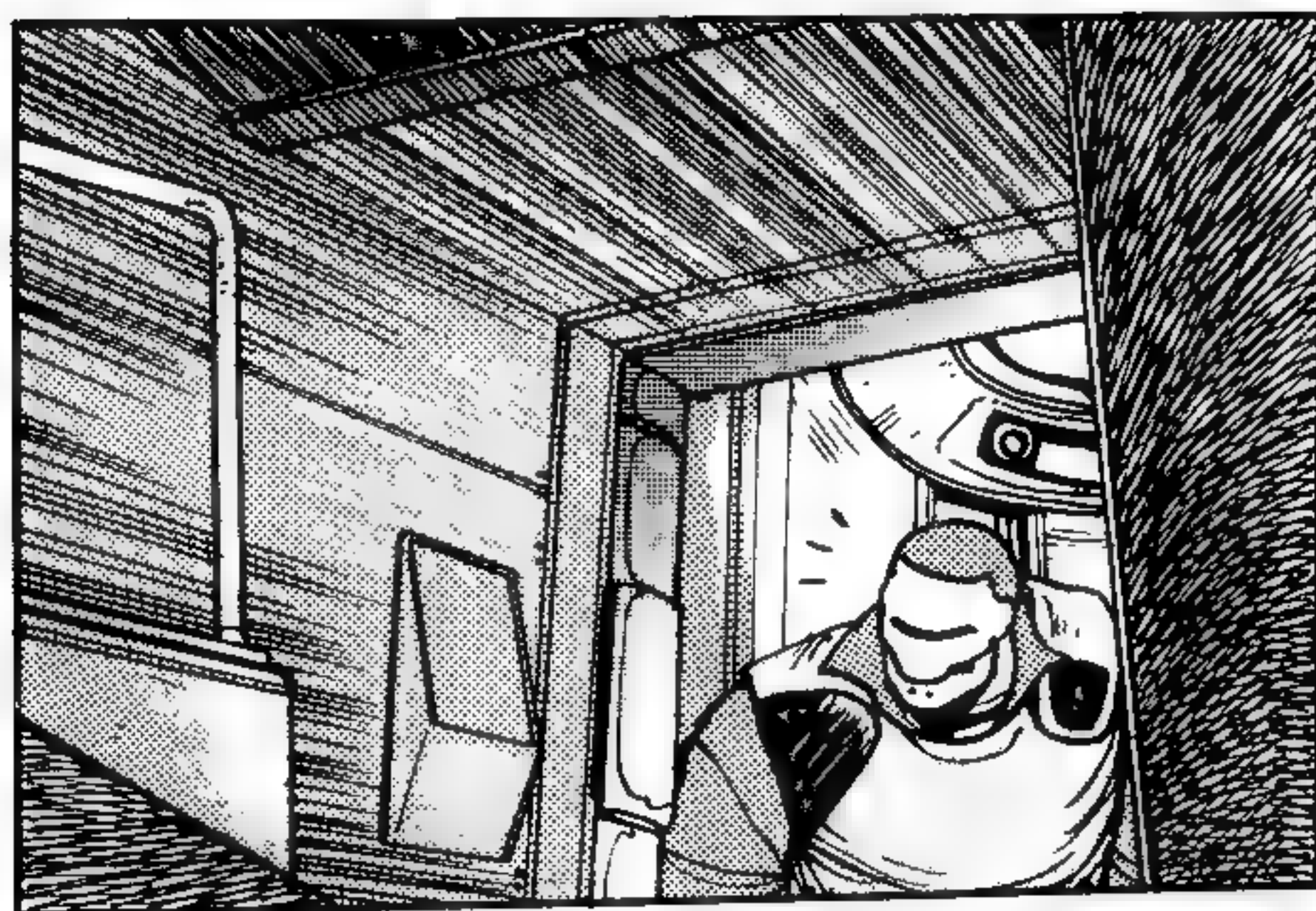
WAAH!  
GET ME  
OUT OF  
THIS!



J/I/I

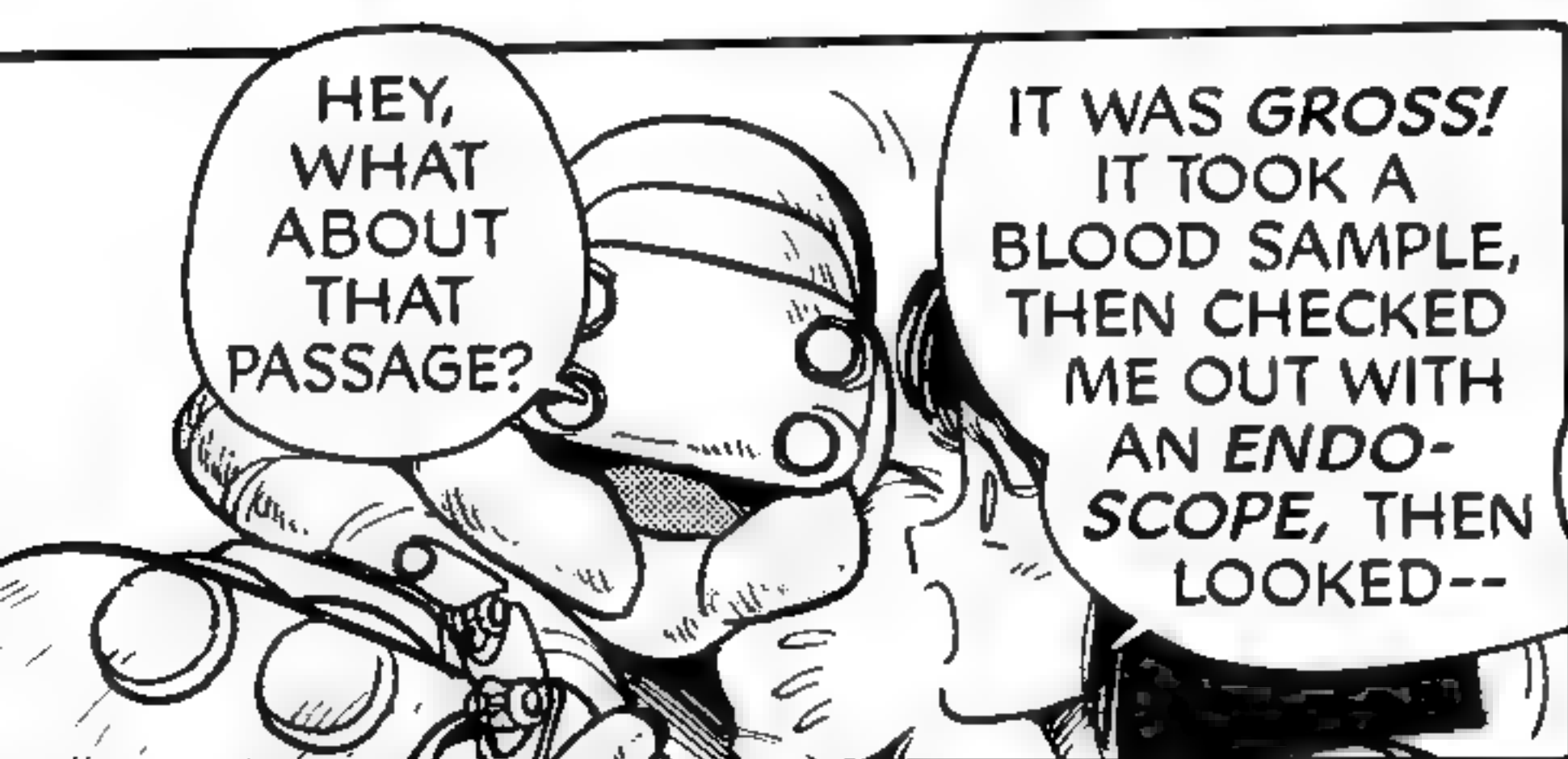
BZZT

HEY! THE  
LIGHTS AND  
ELECTRO-  
BARRIERS  
WENT  
OUT!



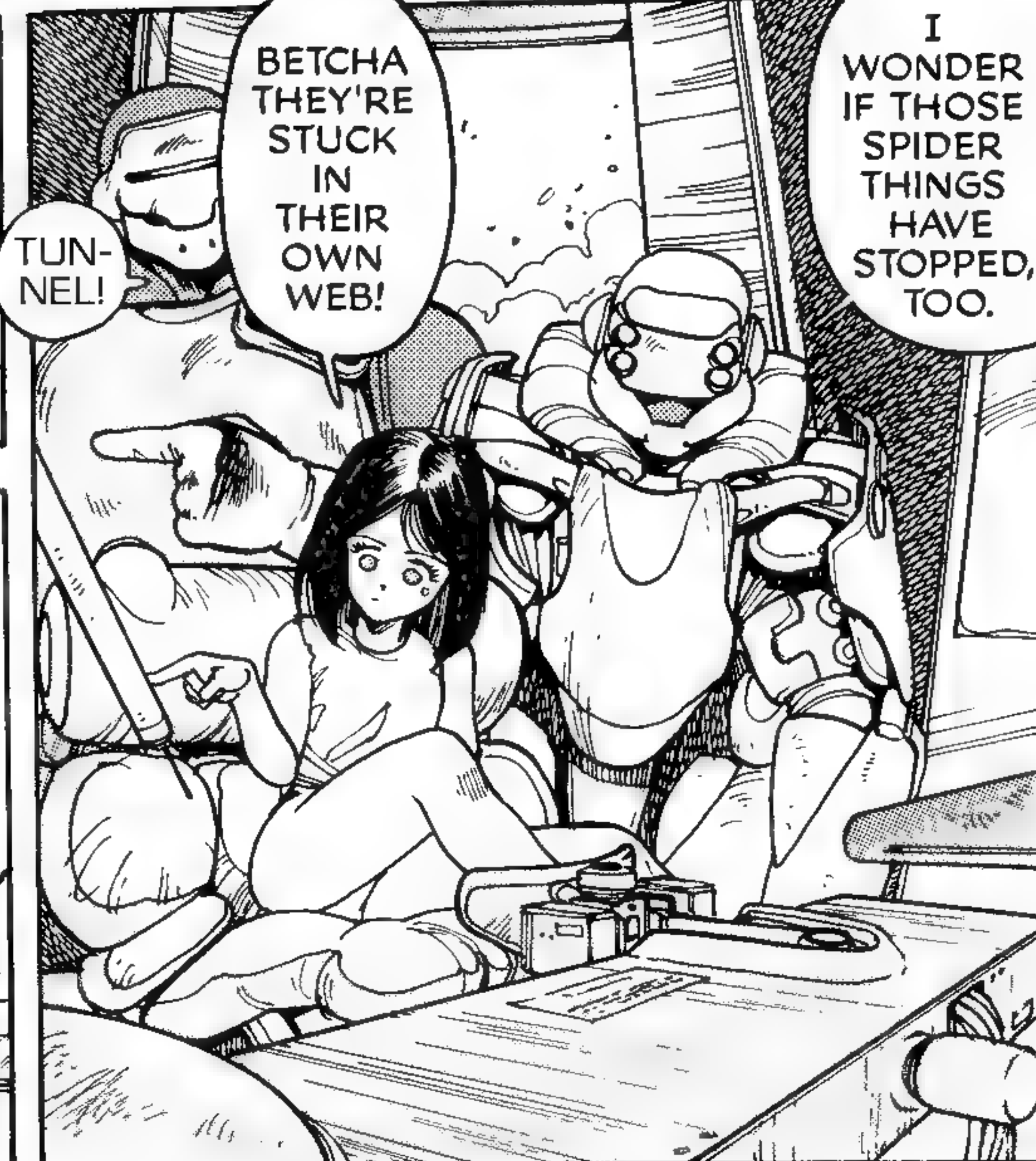
GRNN  
GRNN

LOOKS  
LIKE  
EVERY-  
THING'S  
STOPPED,  
ALL  
RIGHT...



HEY,  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
THAT  
PASSAGE?

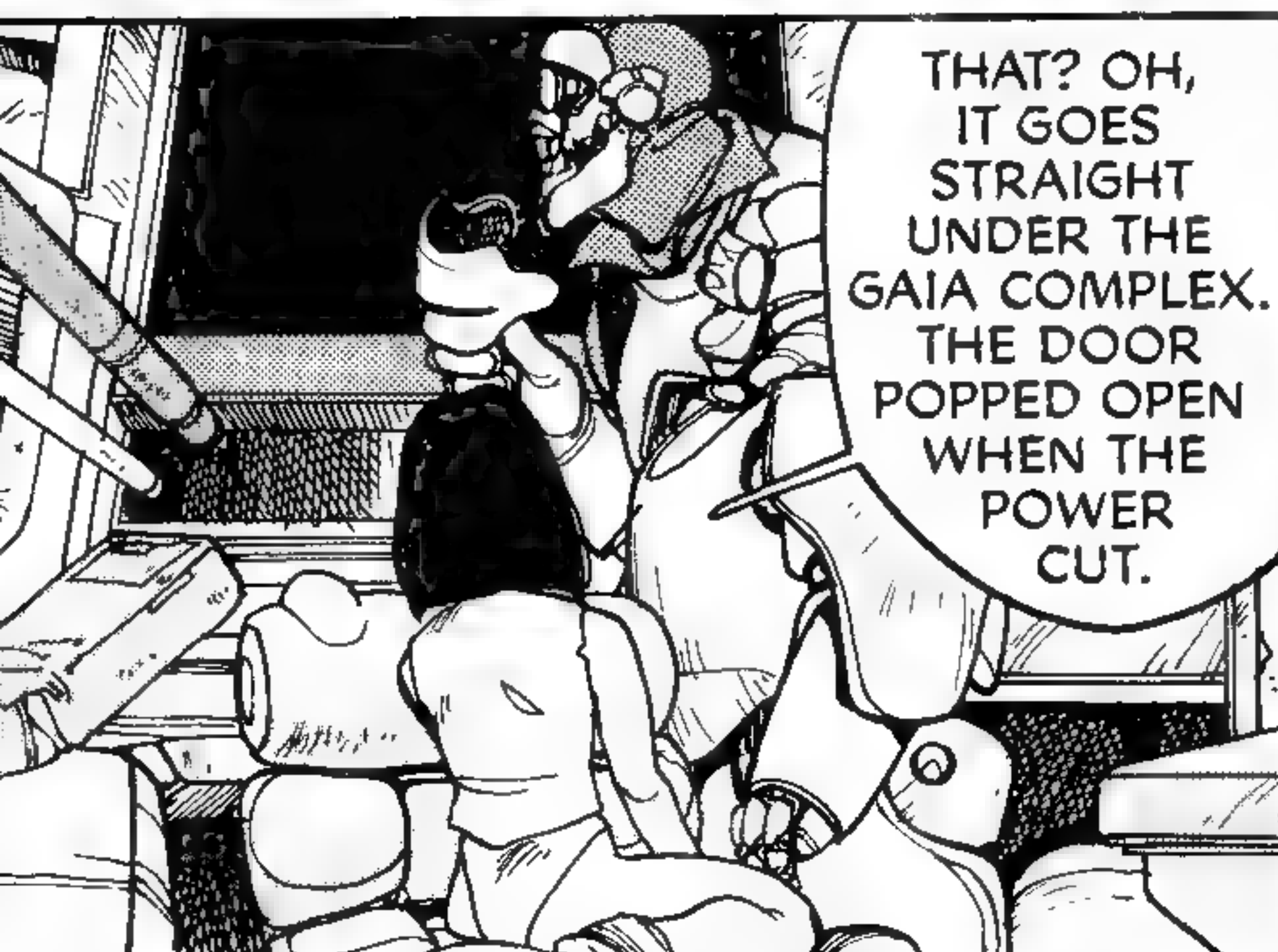
IT WAS GROSS!  
IT TOOK A  
BLOOD SAMPLE,  
THEN CHECKED  
ME OUT WITH  
AN ENDO-  
SCOPE, THEN  
LOOKED--



TUN-  
NEL!

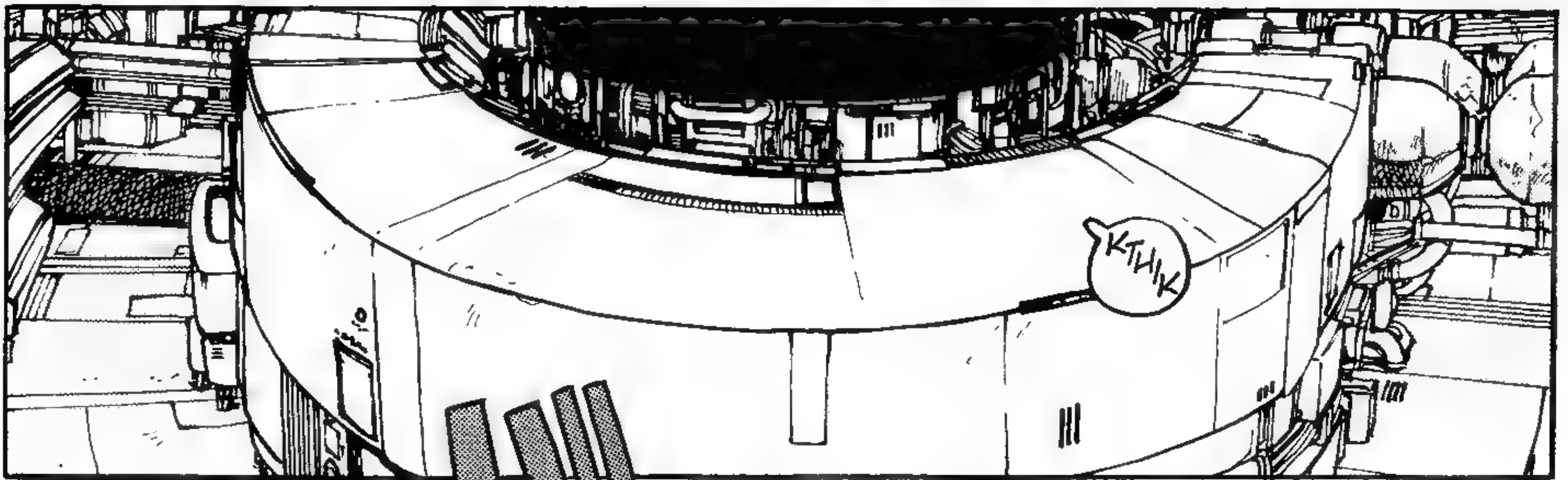
BETCHA  
THEY'RE  
STUCK  
IN  
THEIR  
OWN  
WEB!

I  
WONDER  
IF THOSE  
SPIDER  
THINGS  
HAVE  
STOPPED,  
TOO.



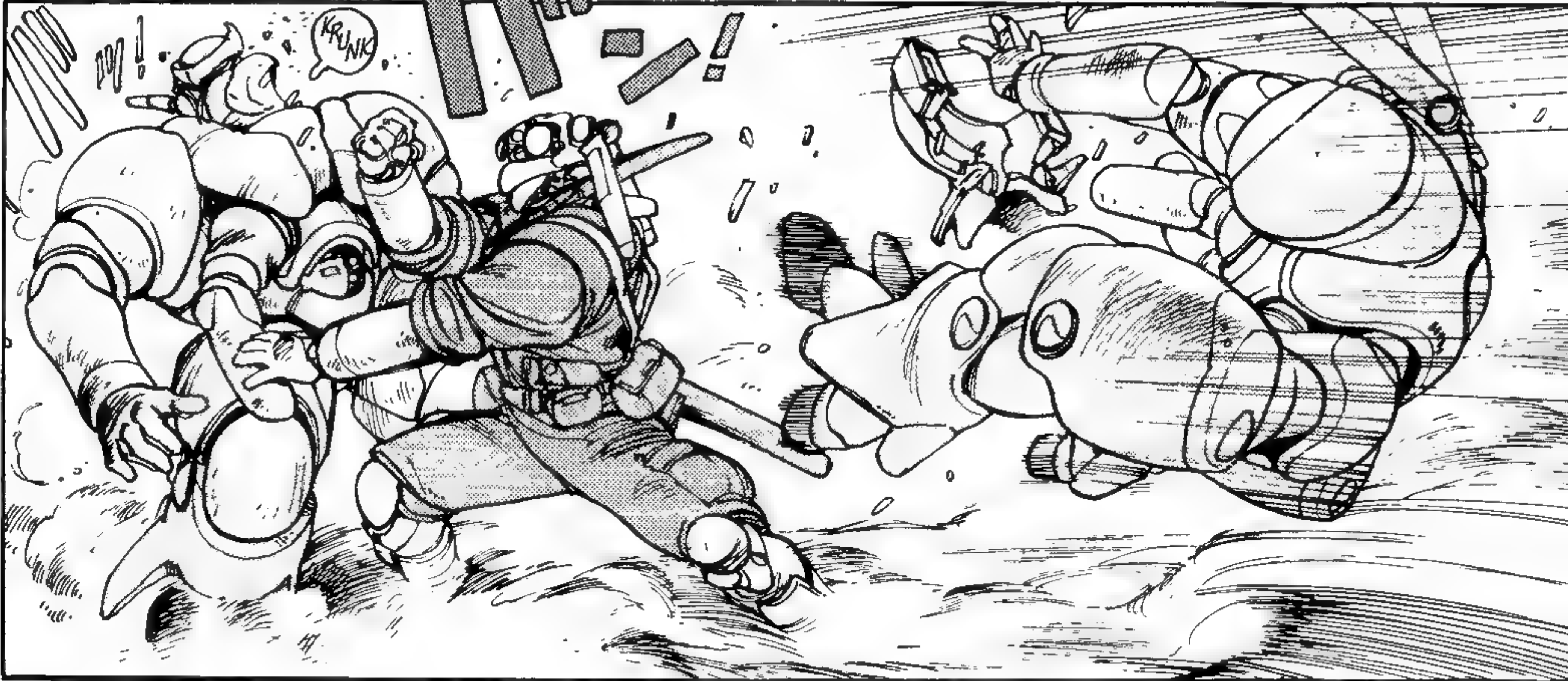
THAT? OH,  
IT GOES  
STRAIGHT  
UNDER THE  
GAIA COMPLEX.  
THE DOOR  
POPPED OPEN  
WHEN THE  
POWER  
CUT.



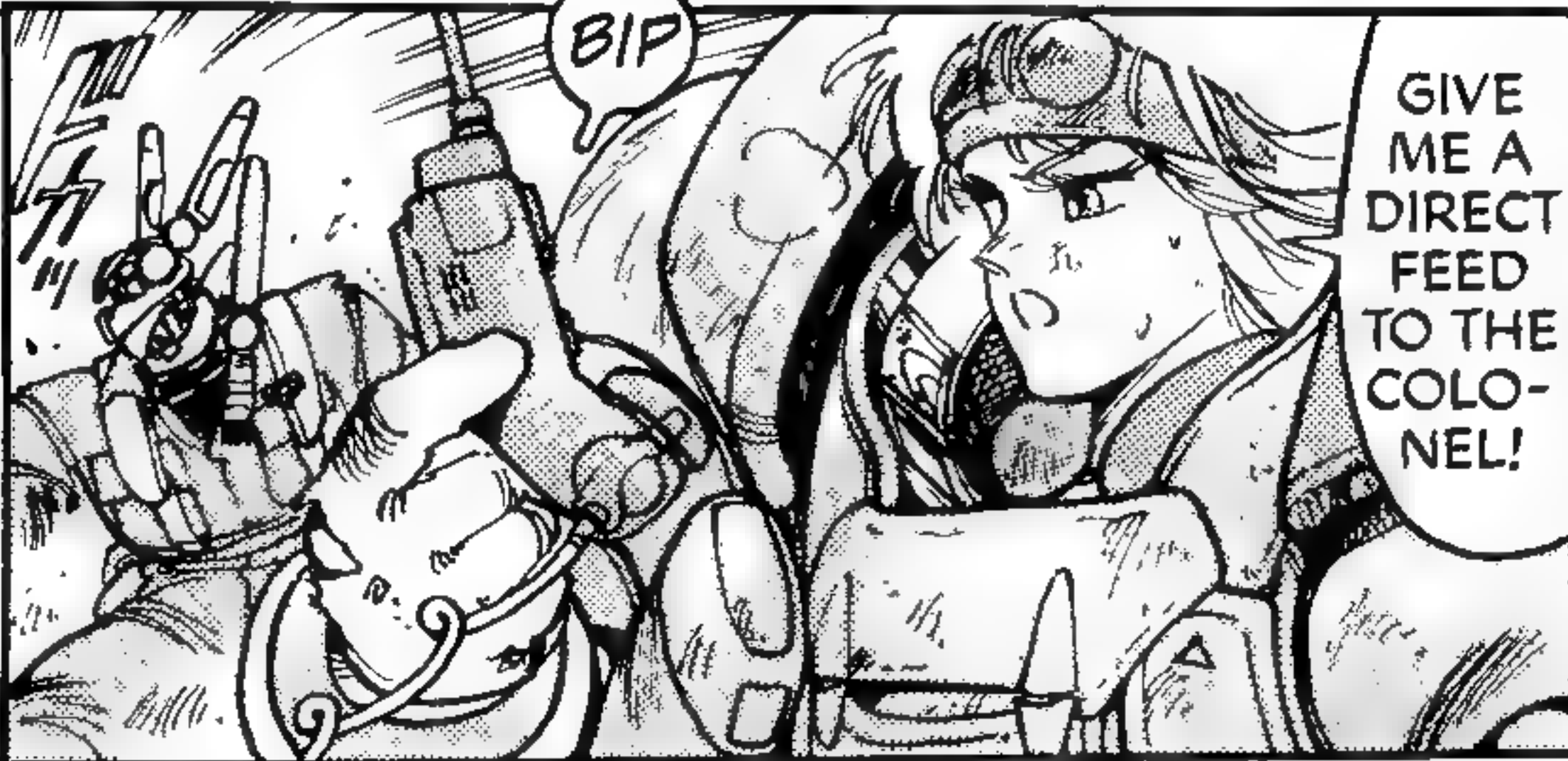


\*FX WHAM

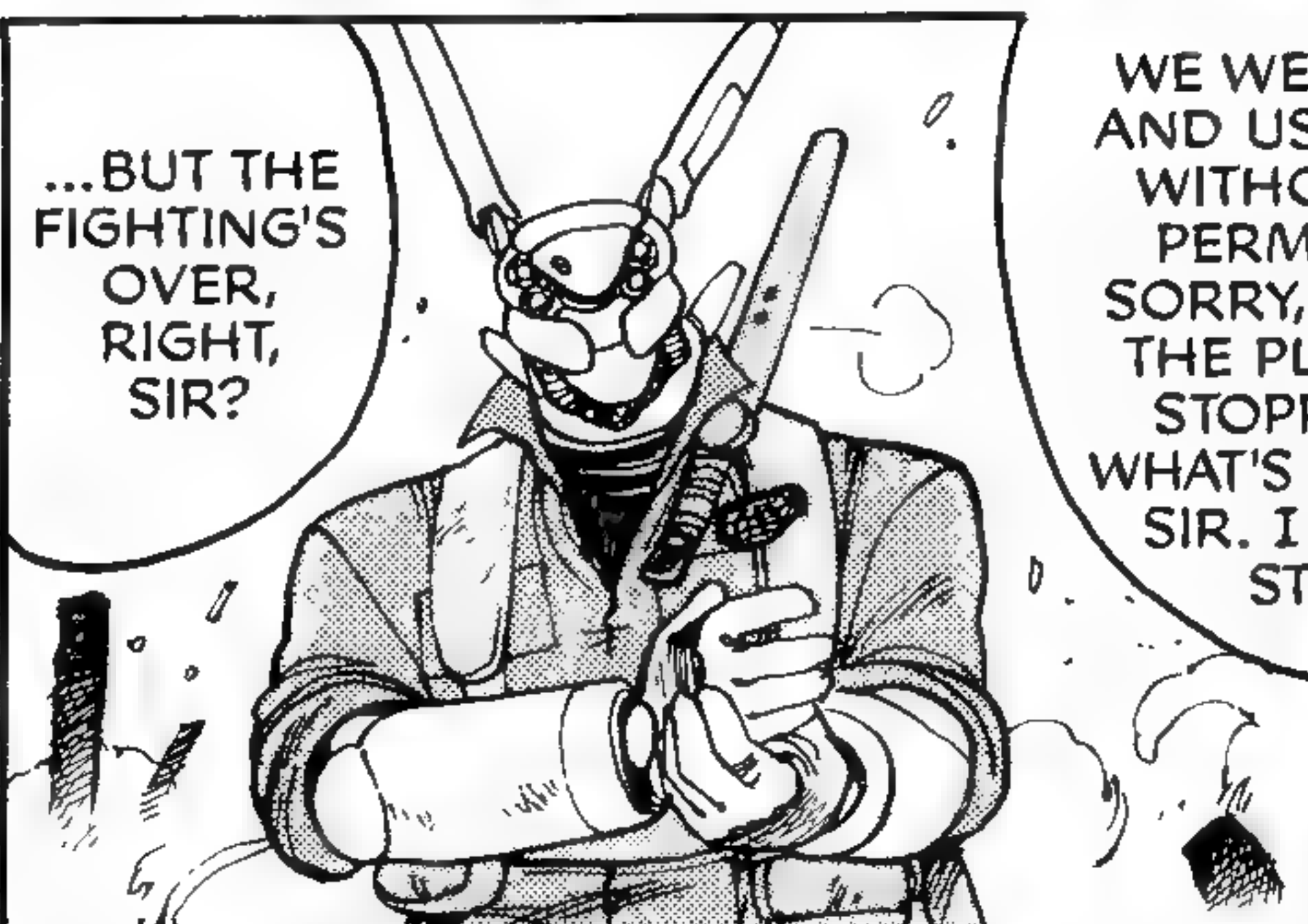
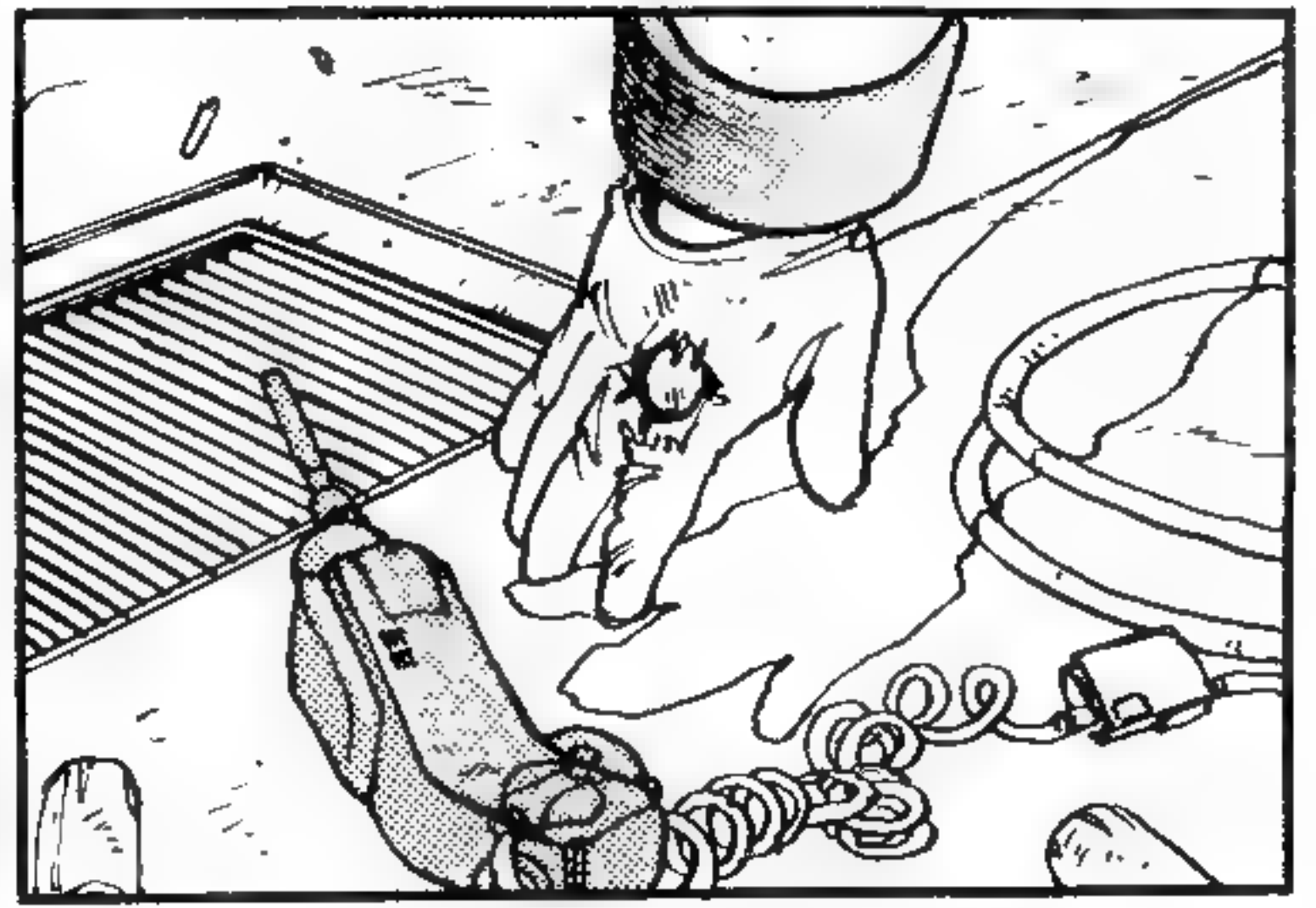
\*FX WHOK



\*FX KRAK



GIVE ME A DIRECT FEED TO THE COLONEL!



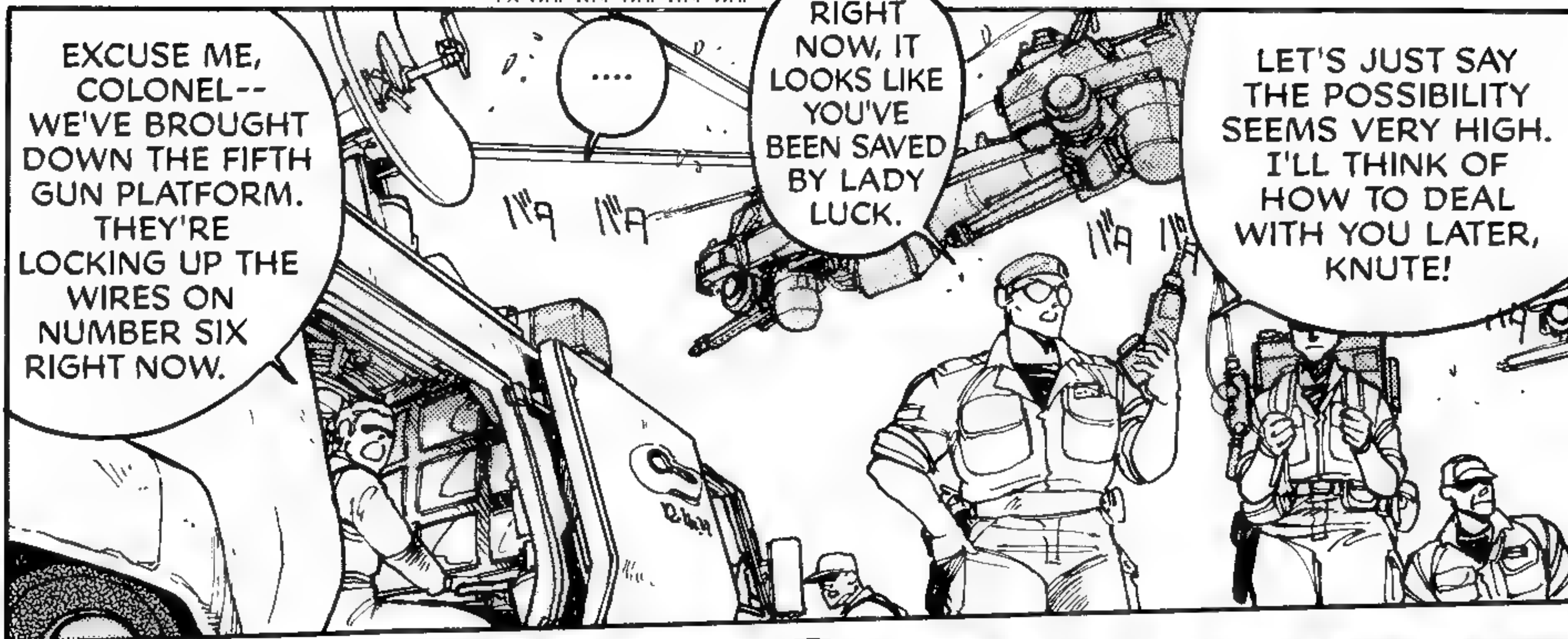
WE WENT AHEAD AND USED HITOMI WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION... SORRY, SIR. HAVE THE PLATFORMS STOPPED YET? WHAT'S THAT...? YES, SIR. I UNDERSTAND...



WHO'S THIS?



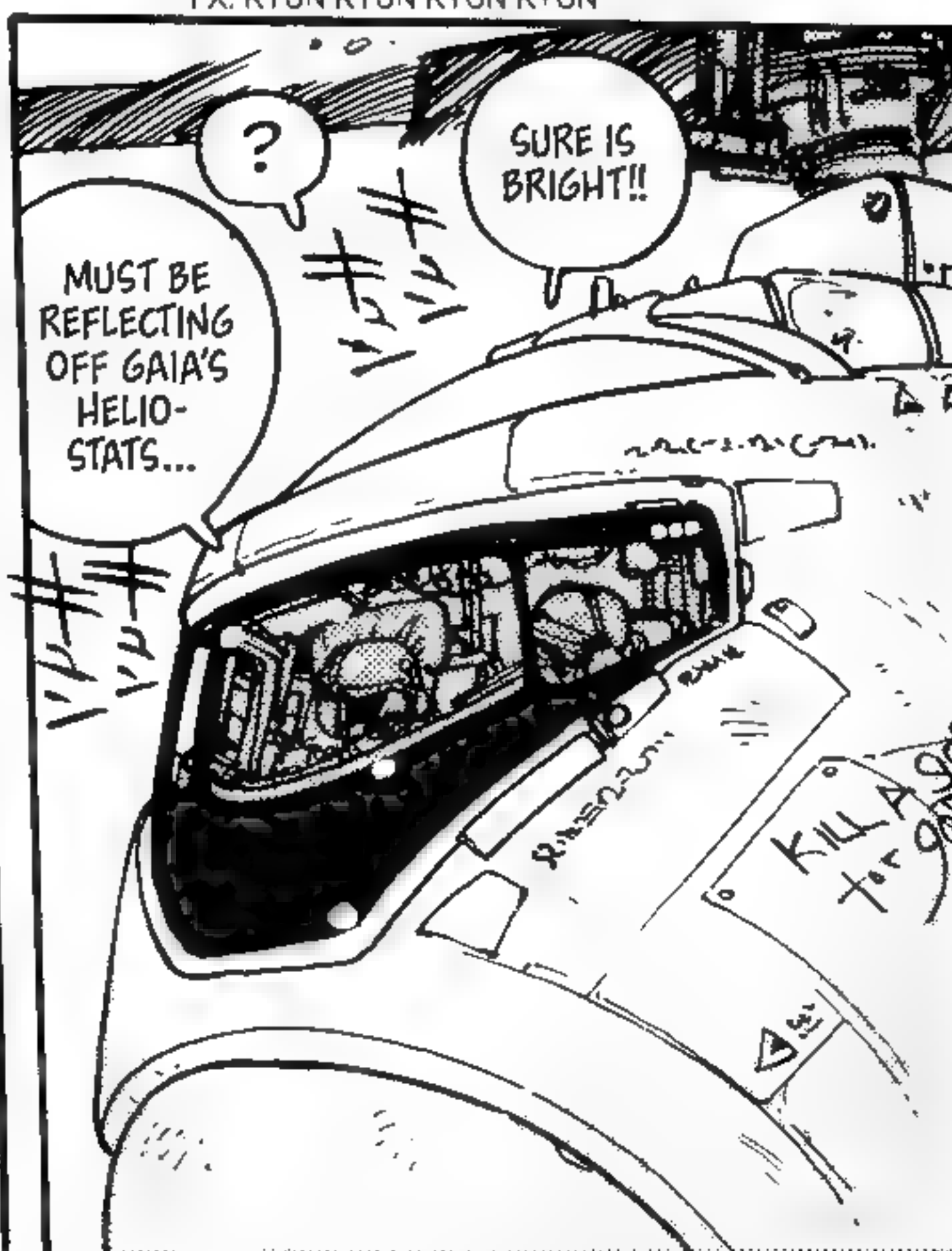
\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP



\*FX ZUZUZUZUN

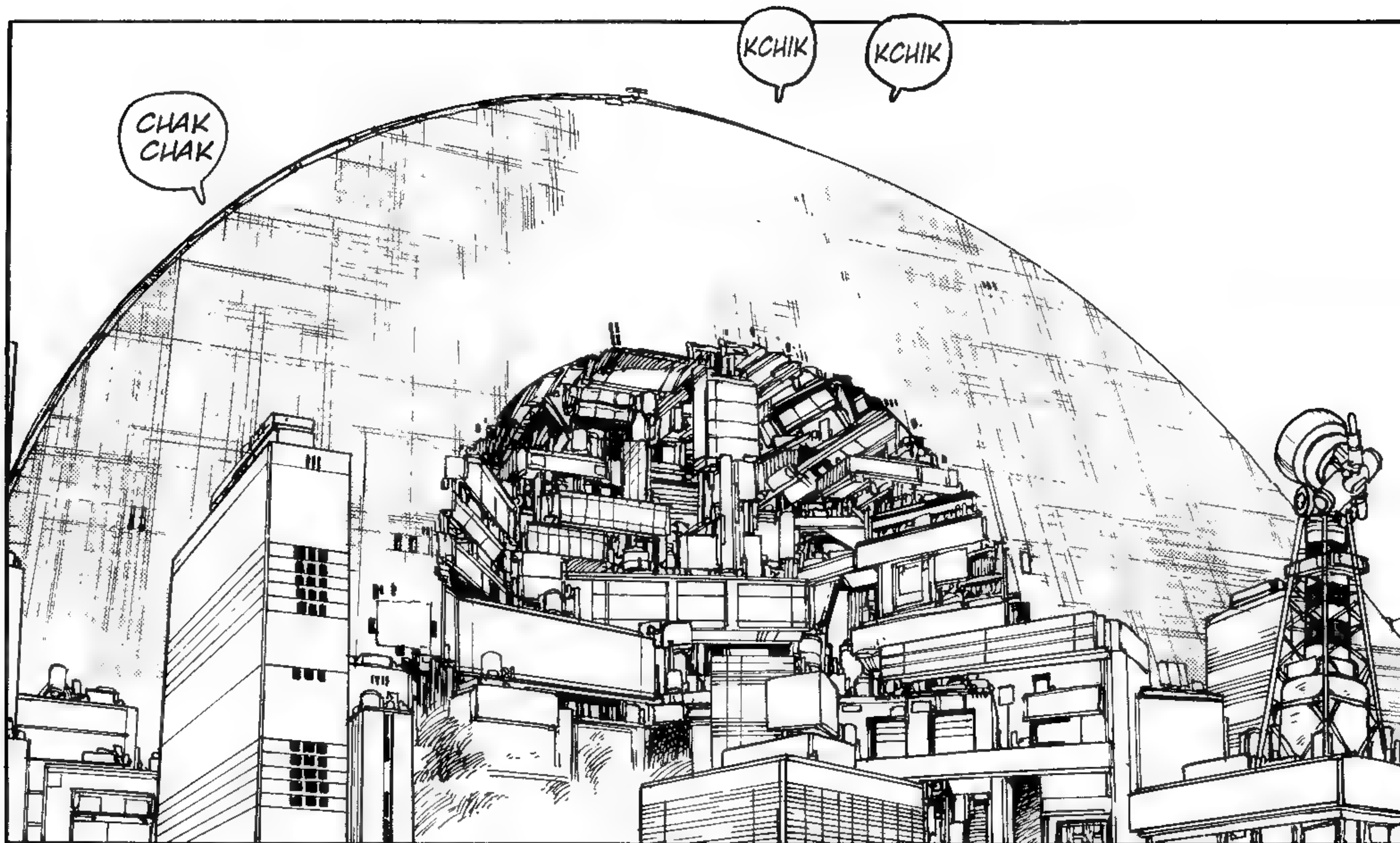


\*FX: KYJN KYJN KYUN KYUN



\*FX HOMMMM

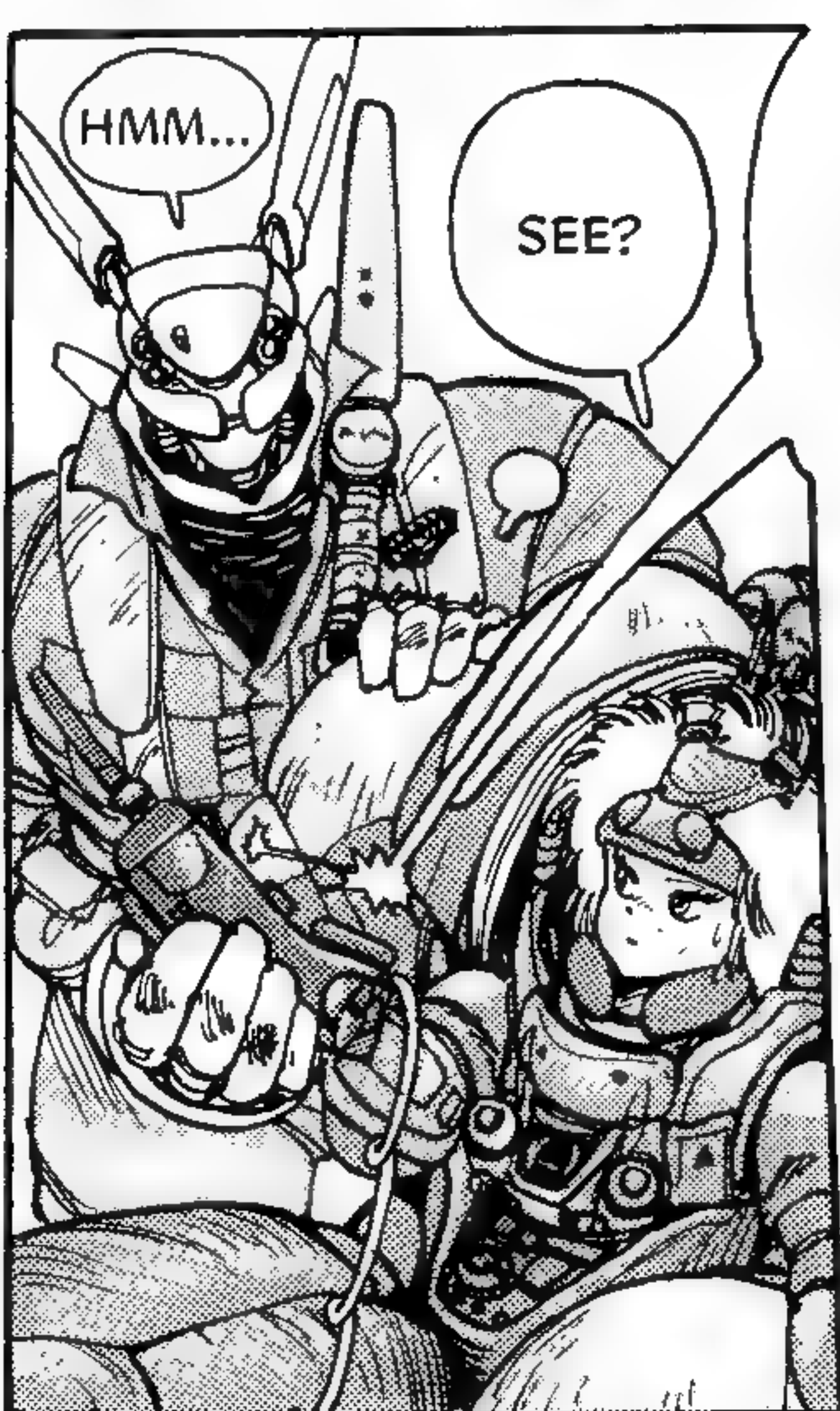
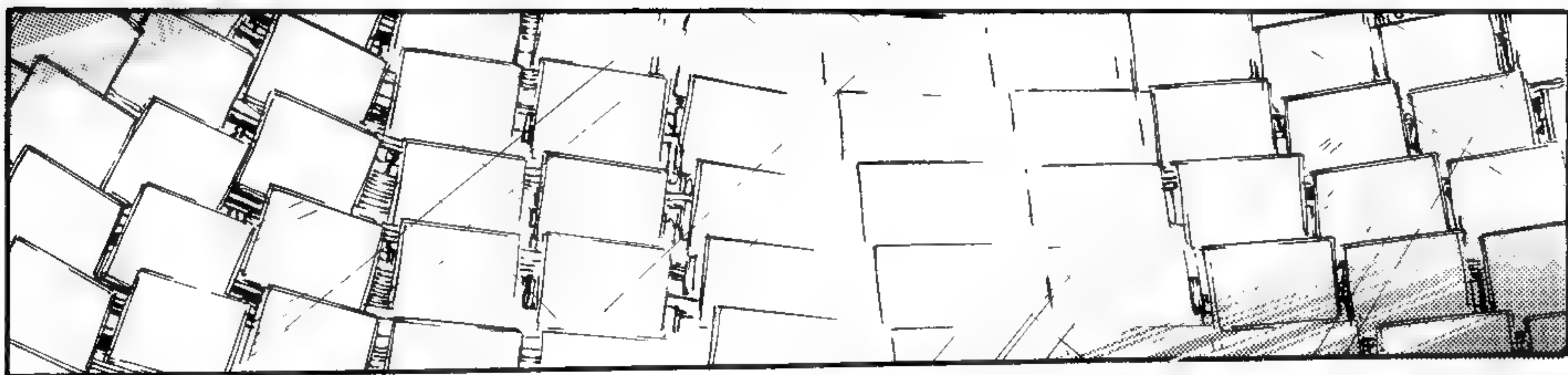




CHAK  
CHAK

KCHIK

KCHIK



HMM...

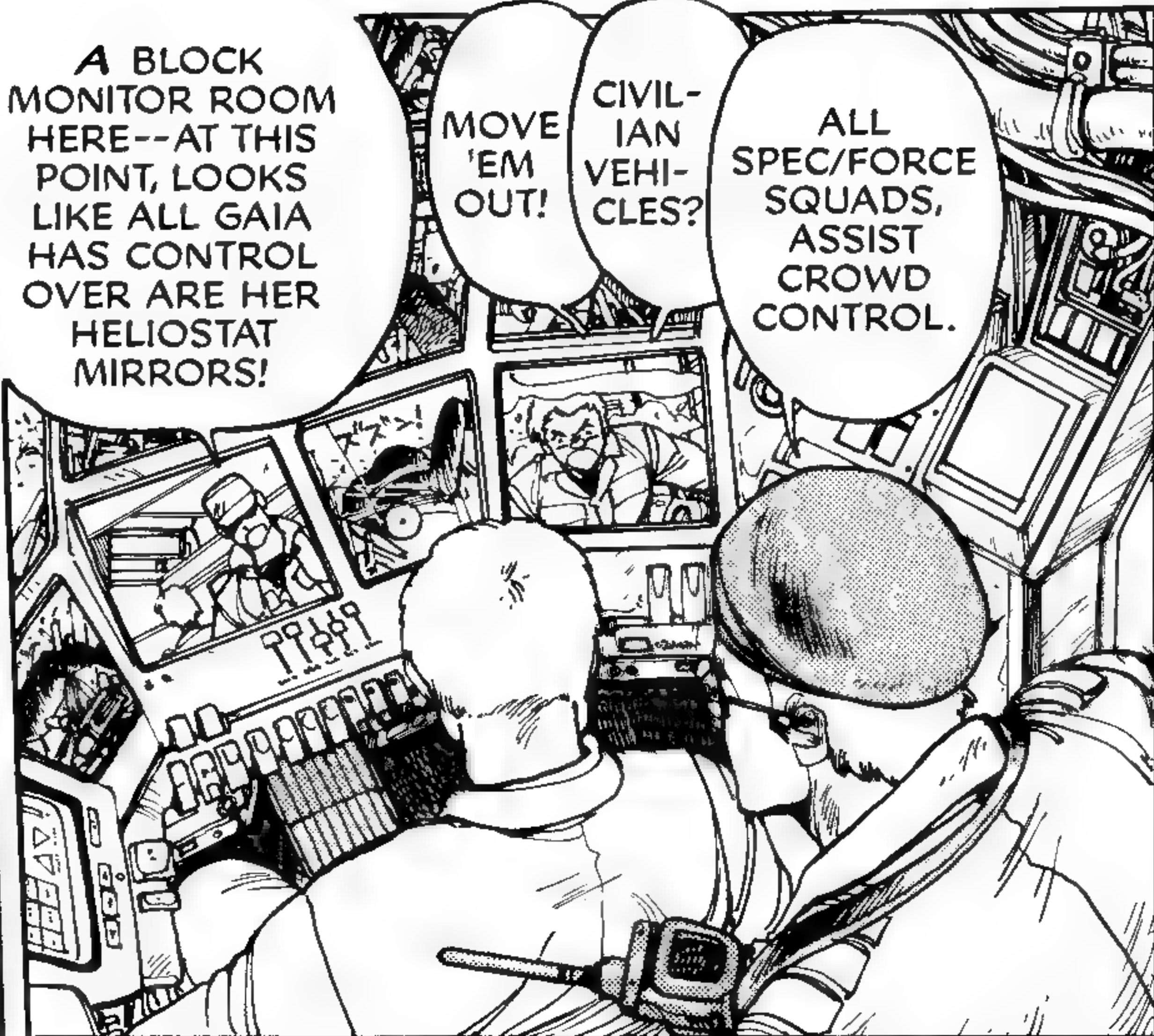
SEE?

A BLOCK  
MONITOR ROOM  
HERE--AT THIS  
POINT, LOOKS  
LIKE ALL GAIA  
HAS CONTROL  
OVER ARE HER  
HELIOSTAT  
MIRRORS!

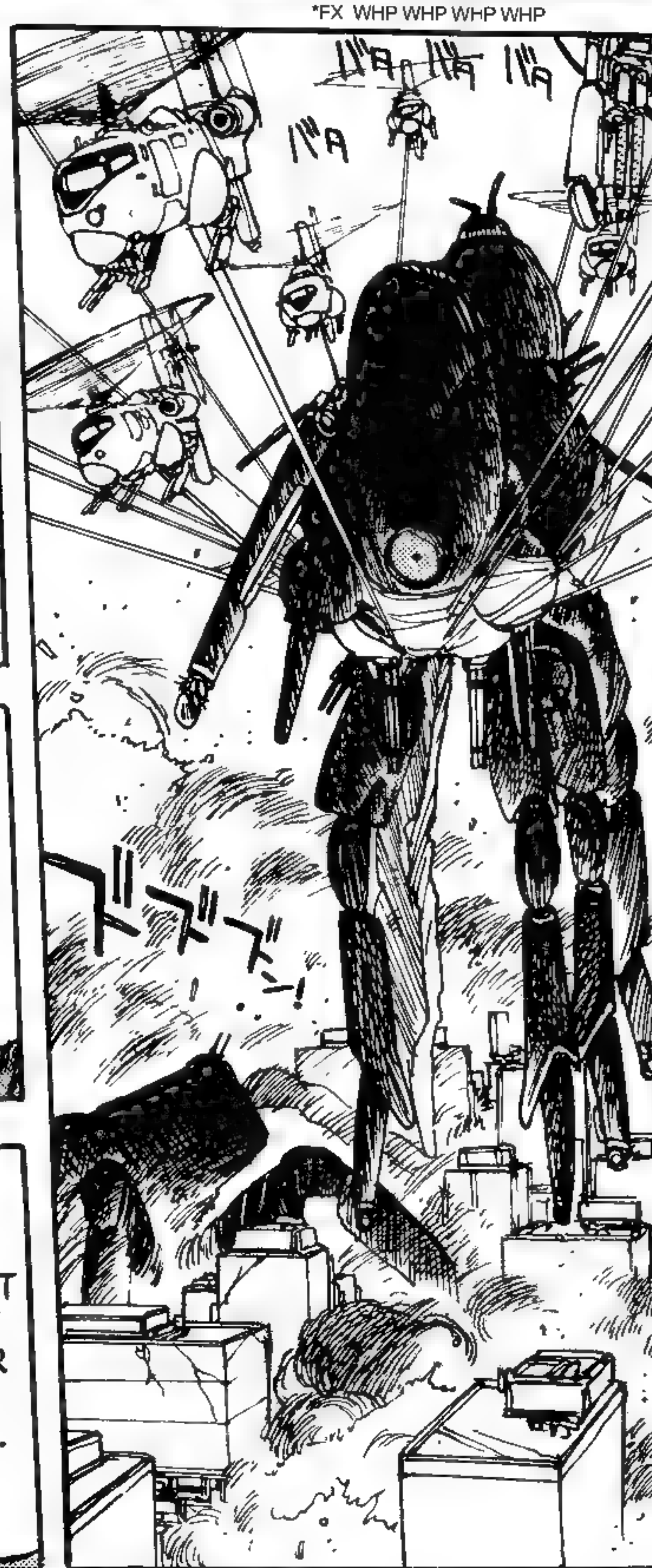
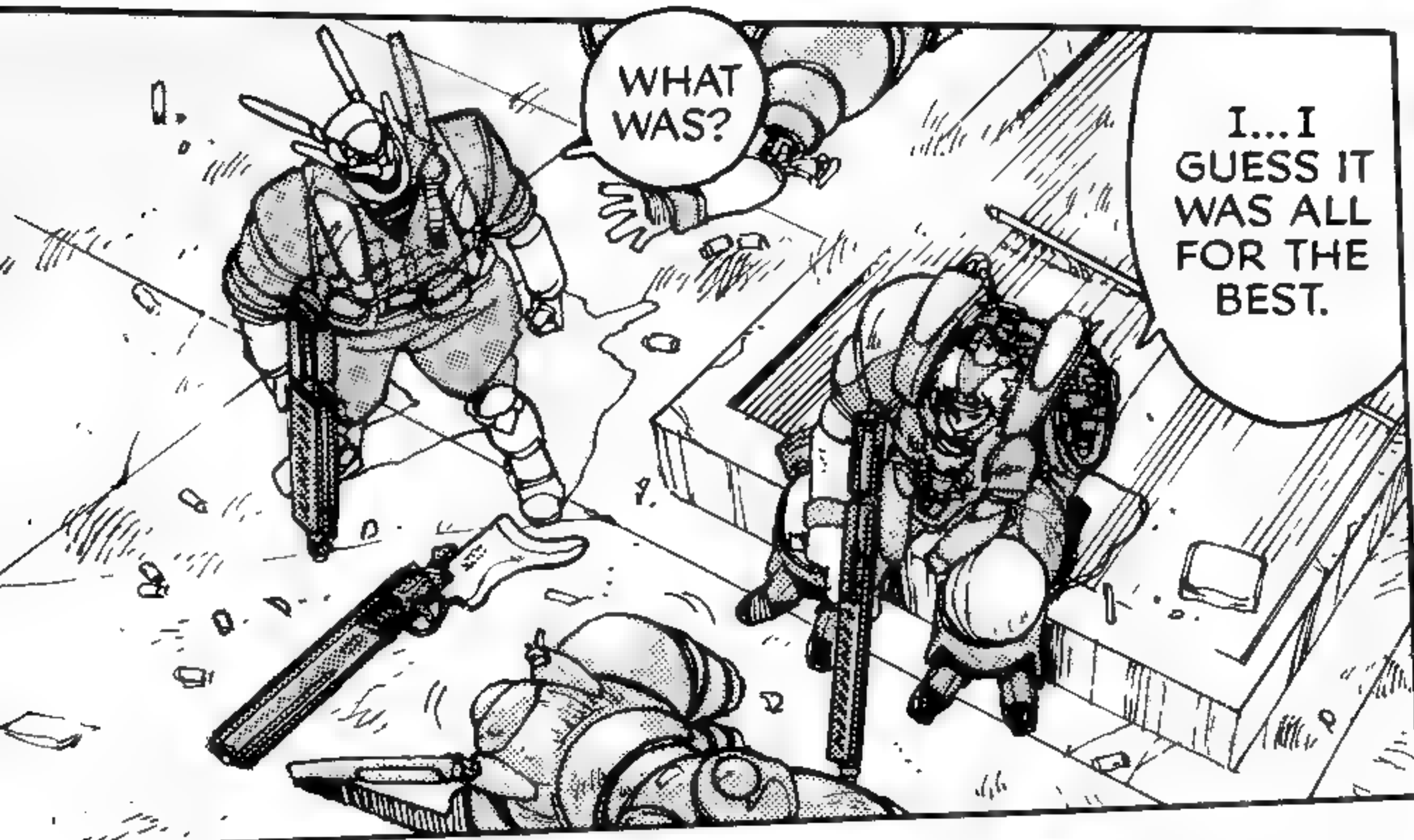
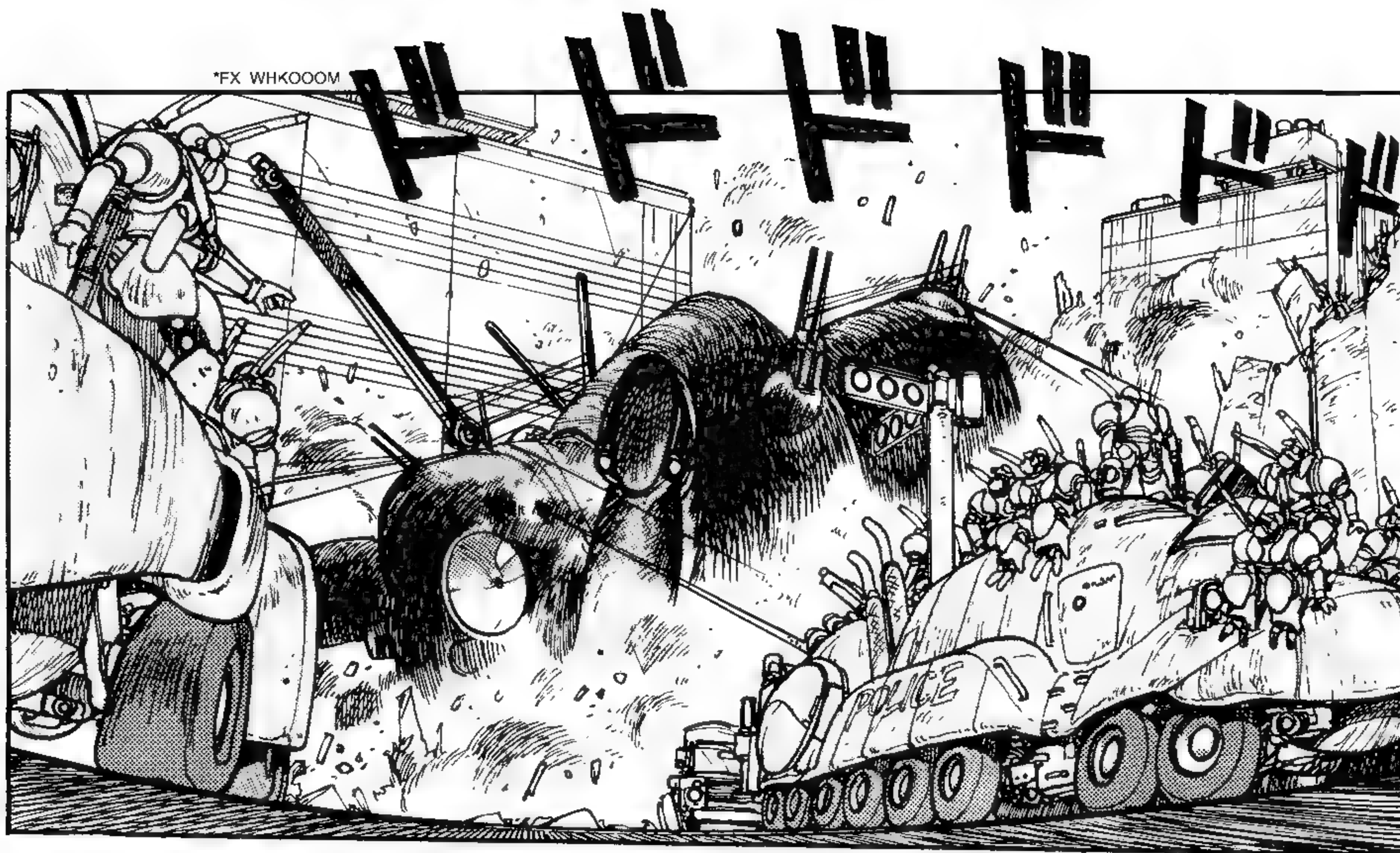
MOVE  
'EM  
OUT!

CIVIL-  
IAN  
VEHI-  
CLES?

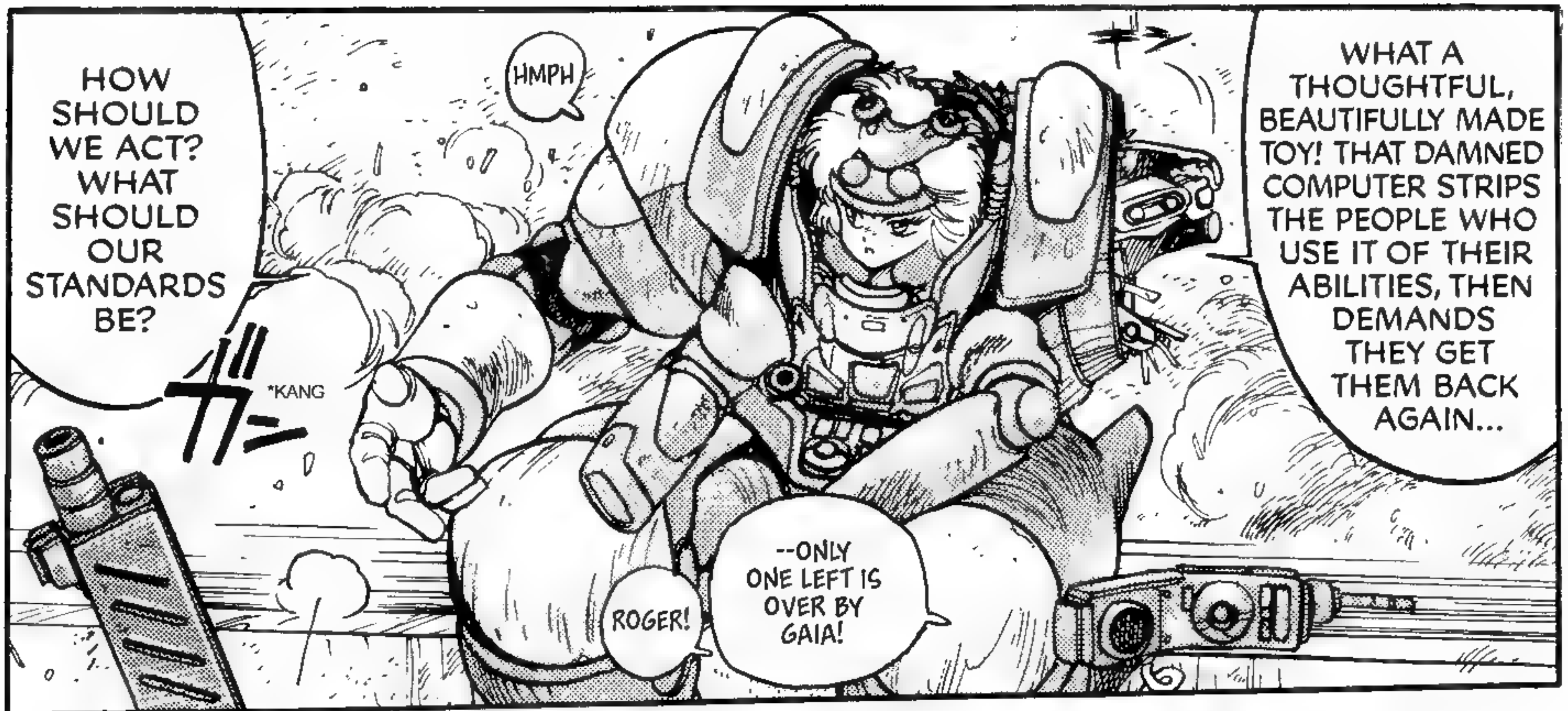
ALL  
SPEC/FORCE  
SQUADS,  
ASSIST  
CROWD  
CONTROL.



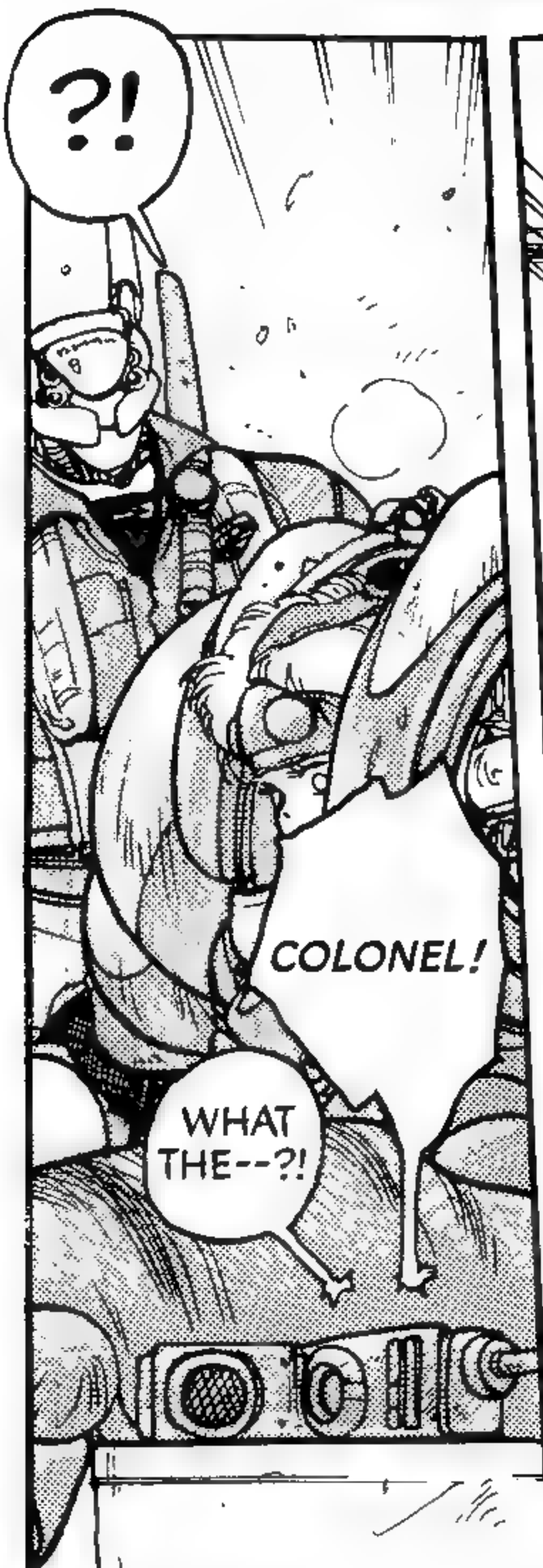








\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

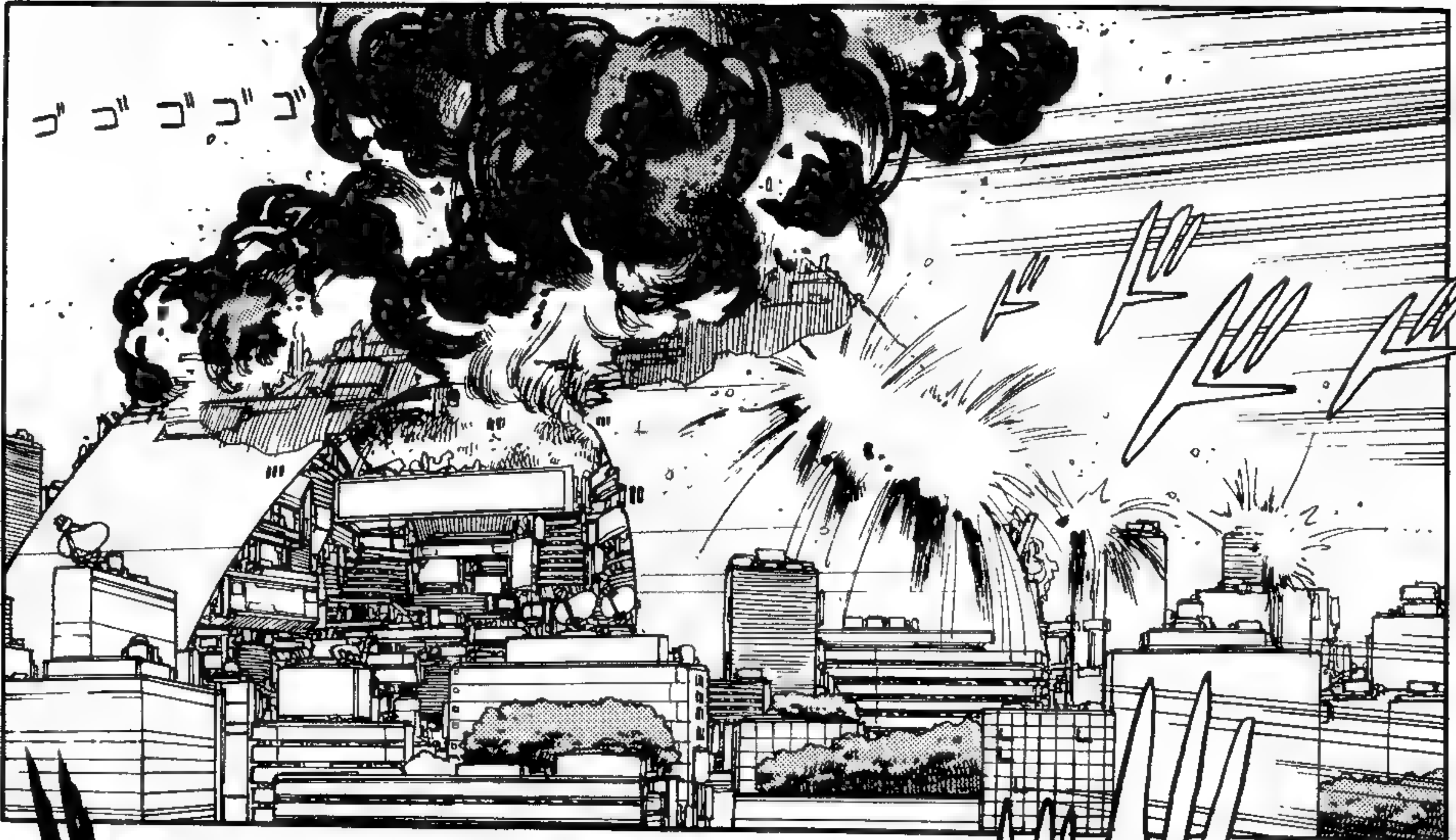


\*FX KYJN KYUN KYUN KYUN KYUN KYUN KYUN



\*FX BROARRRR

\*FX BKOOM BKOOM



\*FX WHOOM

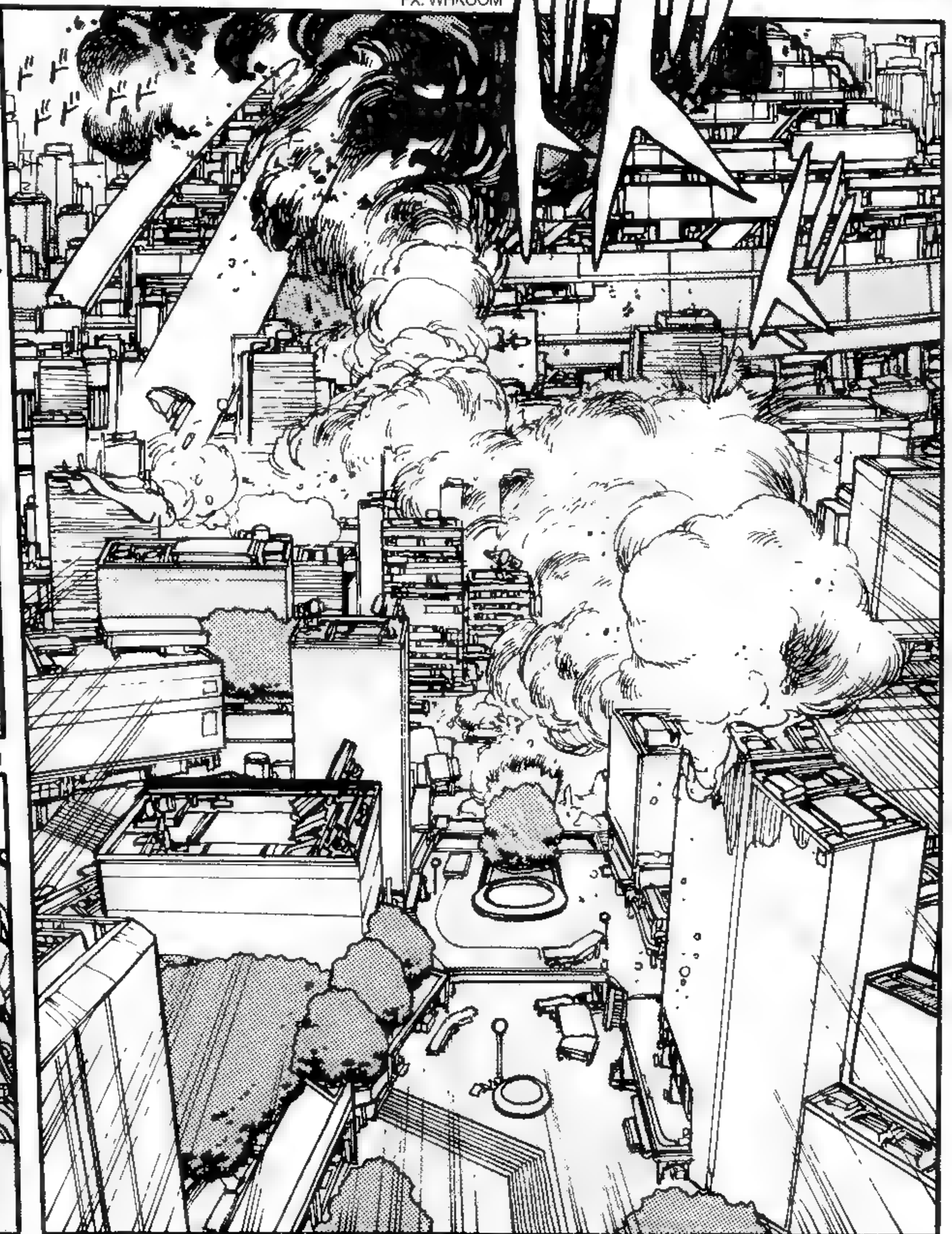
\*FX BRMMMMBLE

\*FX: WHKOOM

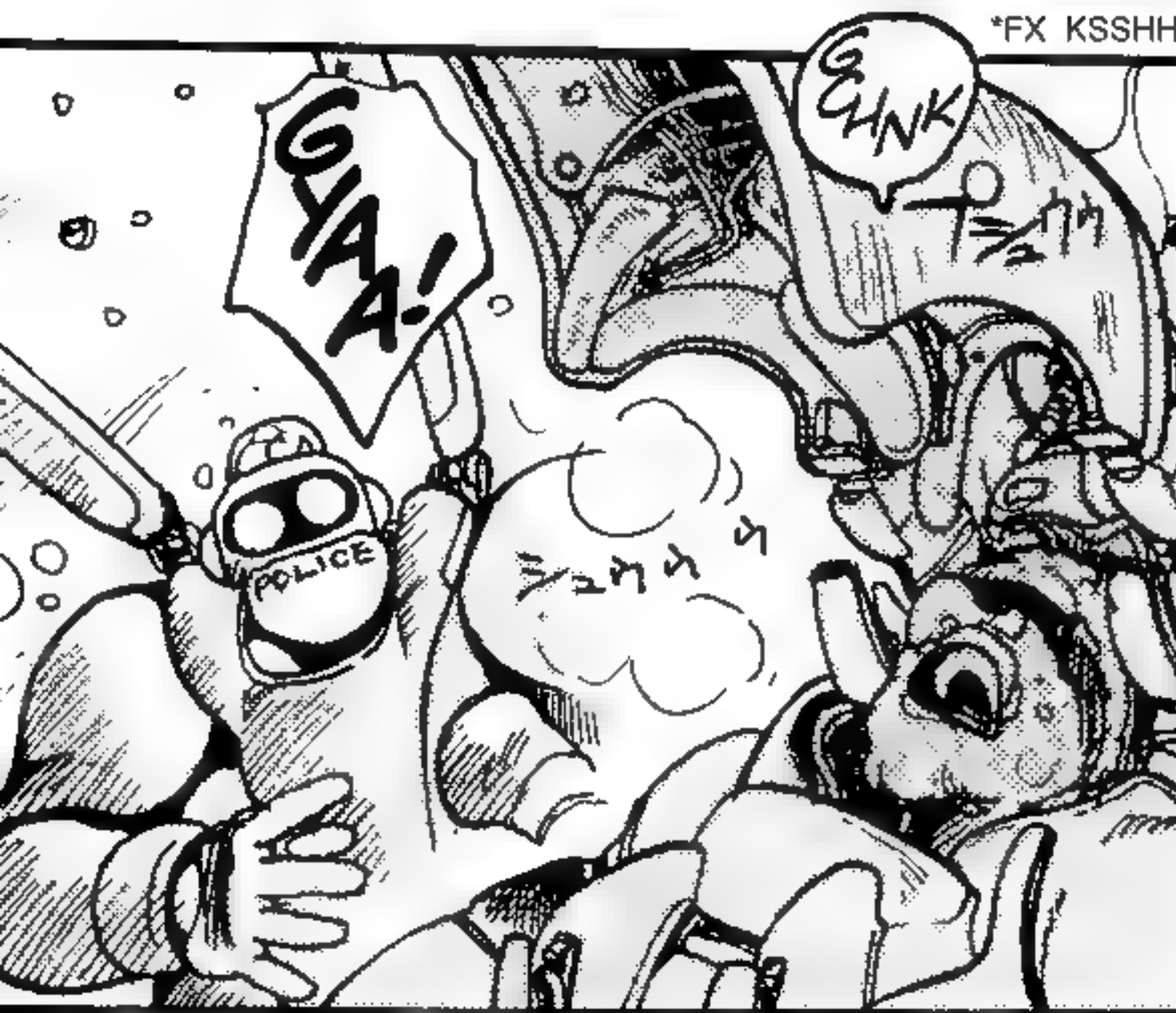


WHAT  
THE  
HELL?!

THE  
HEAT--!



\*FX KSSHH



GYA!

GUNK

\*FX SSSSS

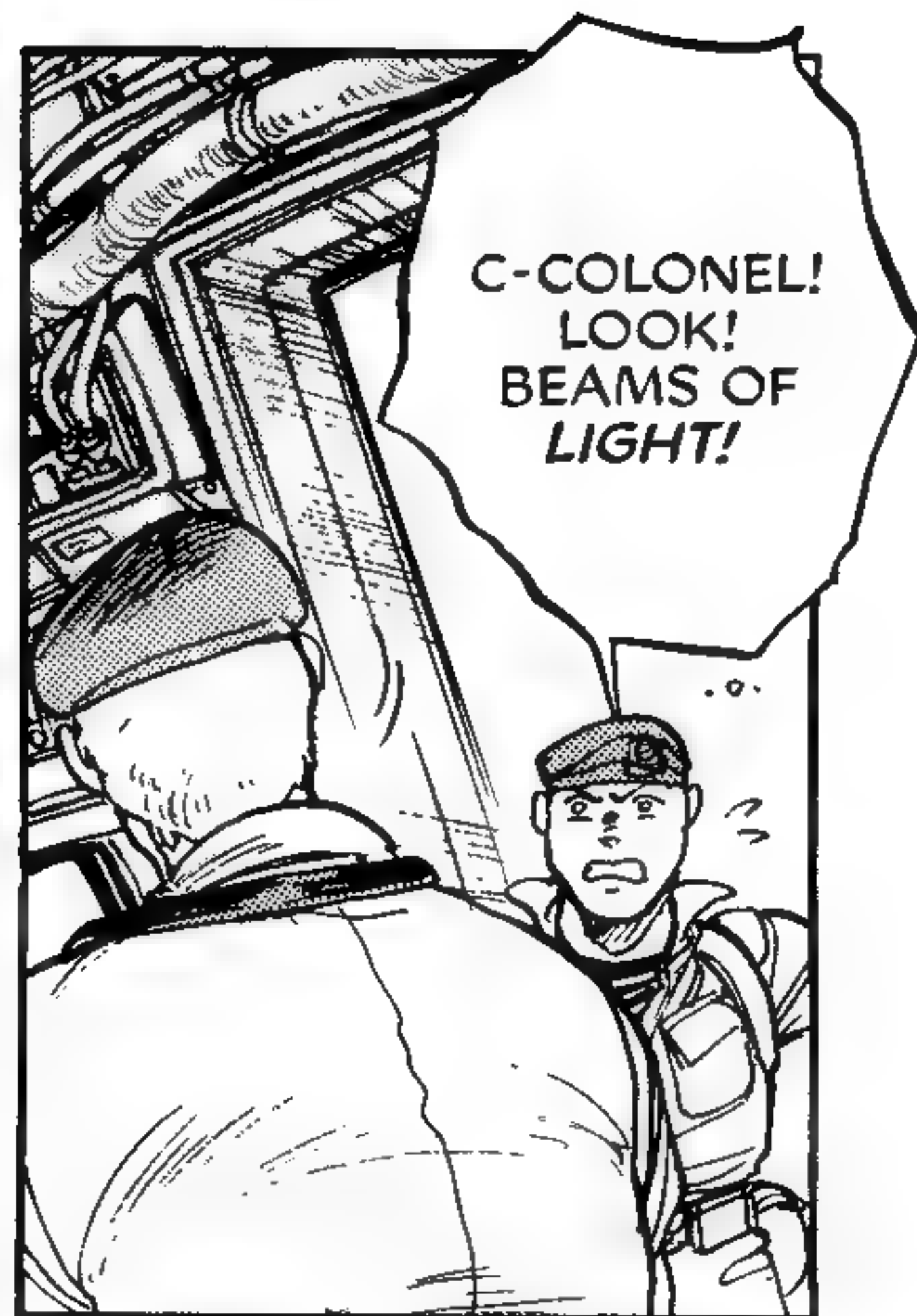




THERE!  
HEADING  
TOWARD  
THE NUKE  
PLANT!

\*BOOM WHKOOM

フ フ フ フ



C-COLONEL!  
LOOK!  
BEAMS OF  
LIGHT!

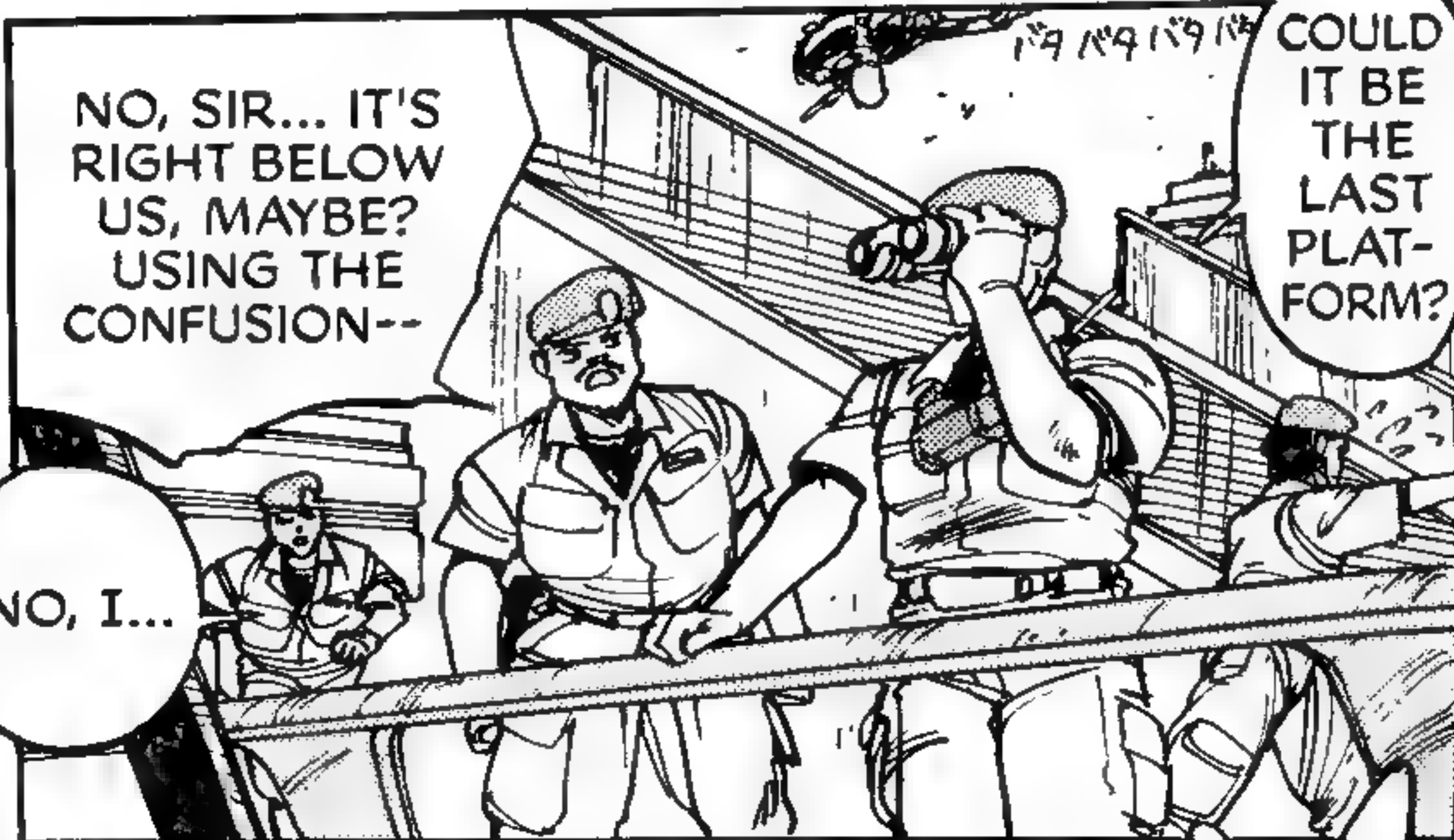


THROW A  
MAGNETIC  
NET AROUND  
THE NUKE  
PLANT! USE  
THAT OLD  
ONE FROM  
THE WAR!

SQUEEZE  
THE GAIA  
ACCESS  
CODES OUT  
OF THE  
COUNCIL!!

AND  
GET ME  
THE  
CENTRAL  
MONITOR  
ROOM!

NO, I...



NO, SIR... IT'S  
RIGHT BELOW  
US, MAYBE?  
USING THE  
CONFUSION--

COULD  
IT BE  
THE  
LAST  
PLAT-  
FORM?

\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP

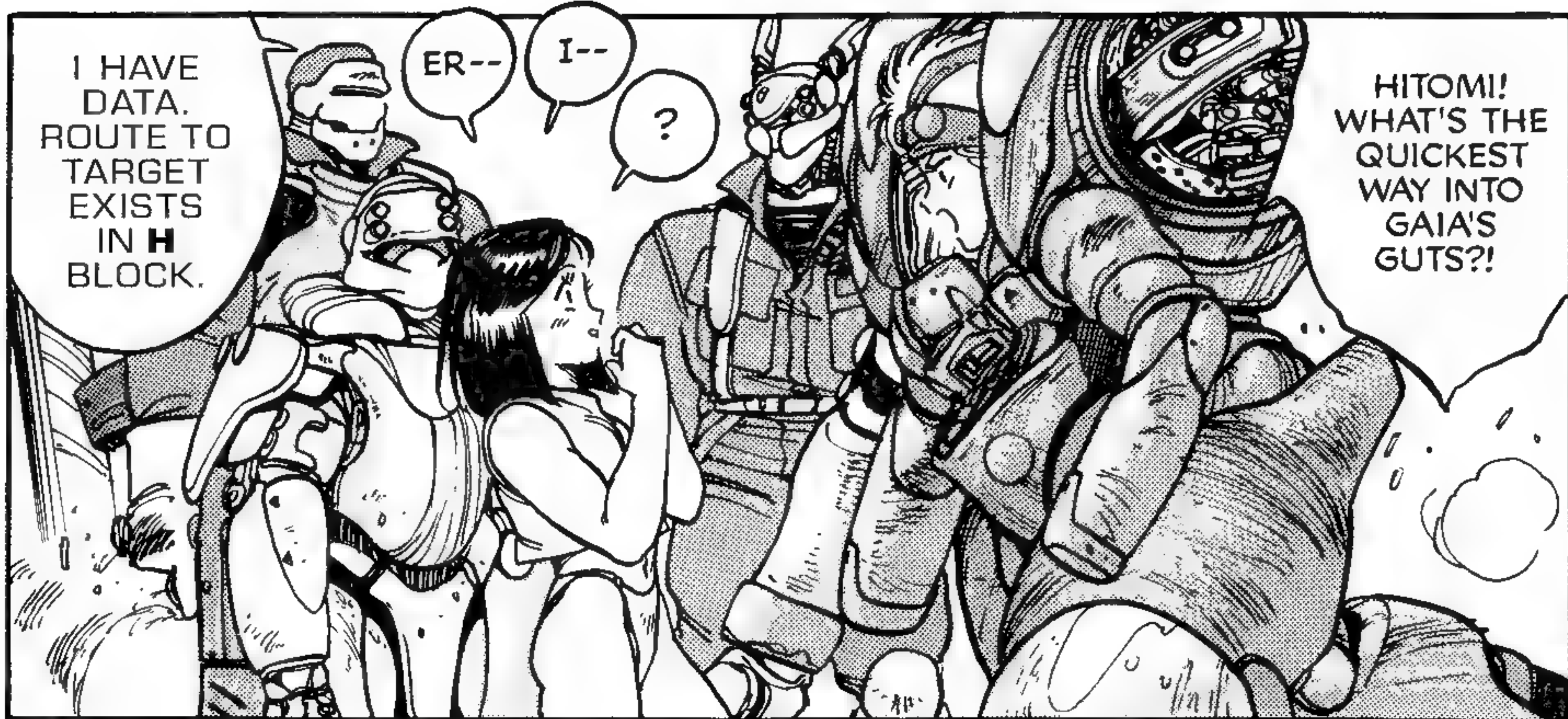
ワッ ワッ ワッ

\*FX DASH



THE  
HELIO-  
STATS!!





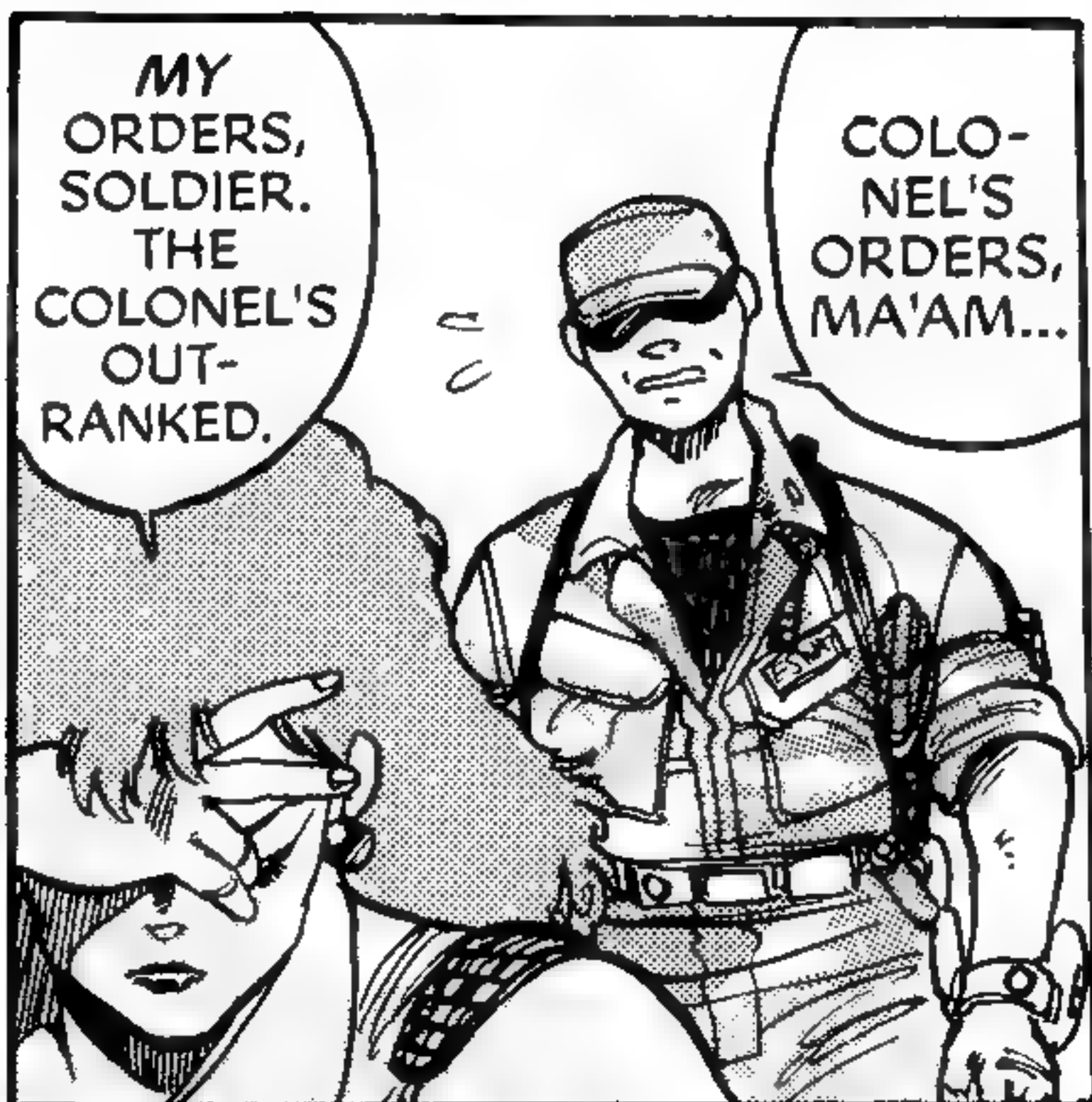
I HAVE DATA. ROUTE TO TARGET EXISTS IN H BLOCK.

ER--

I--

?

HITOMI! WHAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY INTO GAIJA'S GUTS?!



MY ORDERS, SOLDIER. THE COLONEL'S OUT-RANKED.

COLONEL'S ORDERS, MA'AM...



I'M STAYING HERE.

MA'AM... YOU SHOULD GO TO THE SHELTER--

--ARGET THE MISSILE SALVOS HALFWAY DOWN THE HELIO ARRAY! TRY--

--CAN'T LAY A SMOKE SCREEN, THEN BUST THE GODDAMN HELIOSTATS! USE THE--

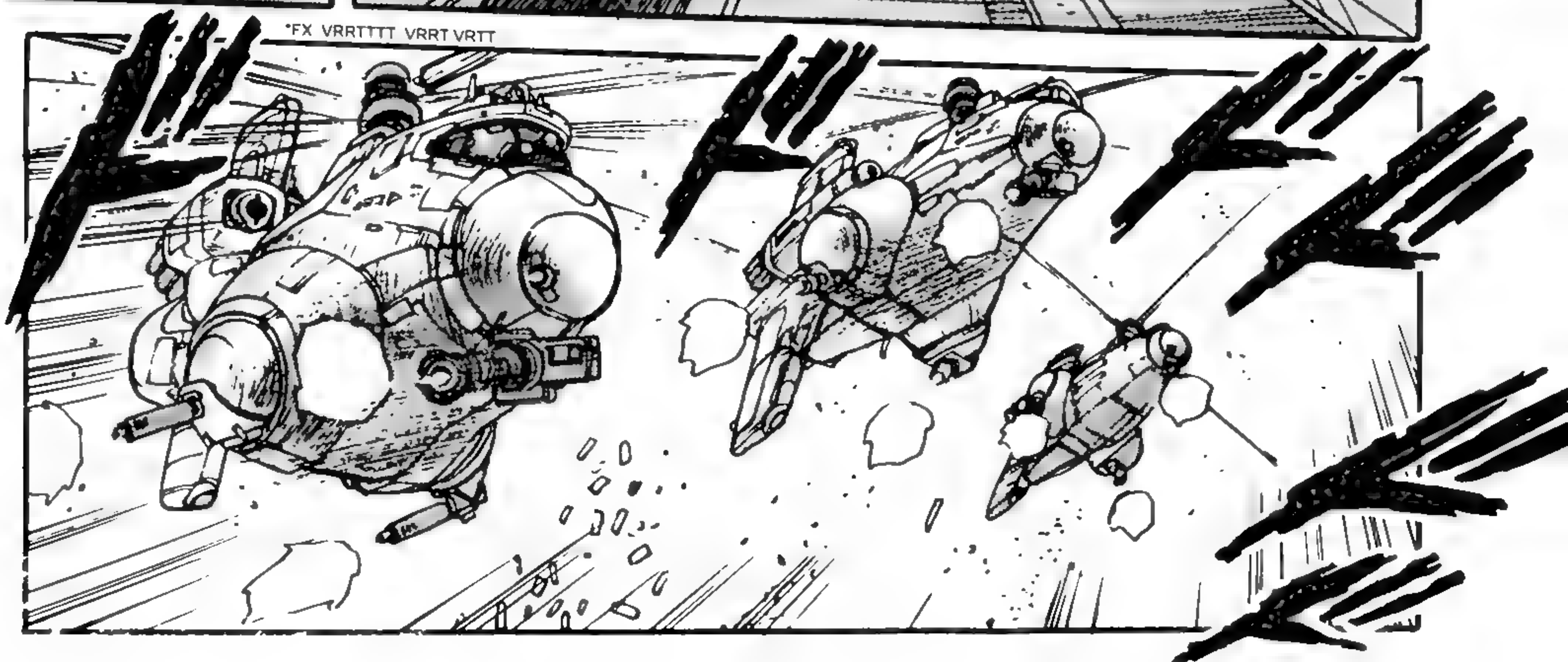
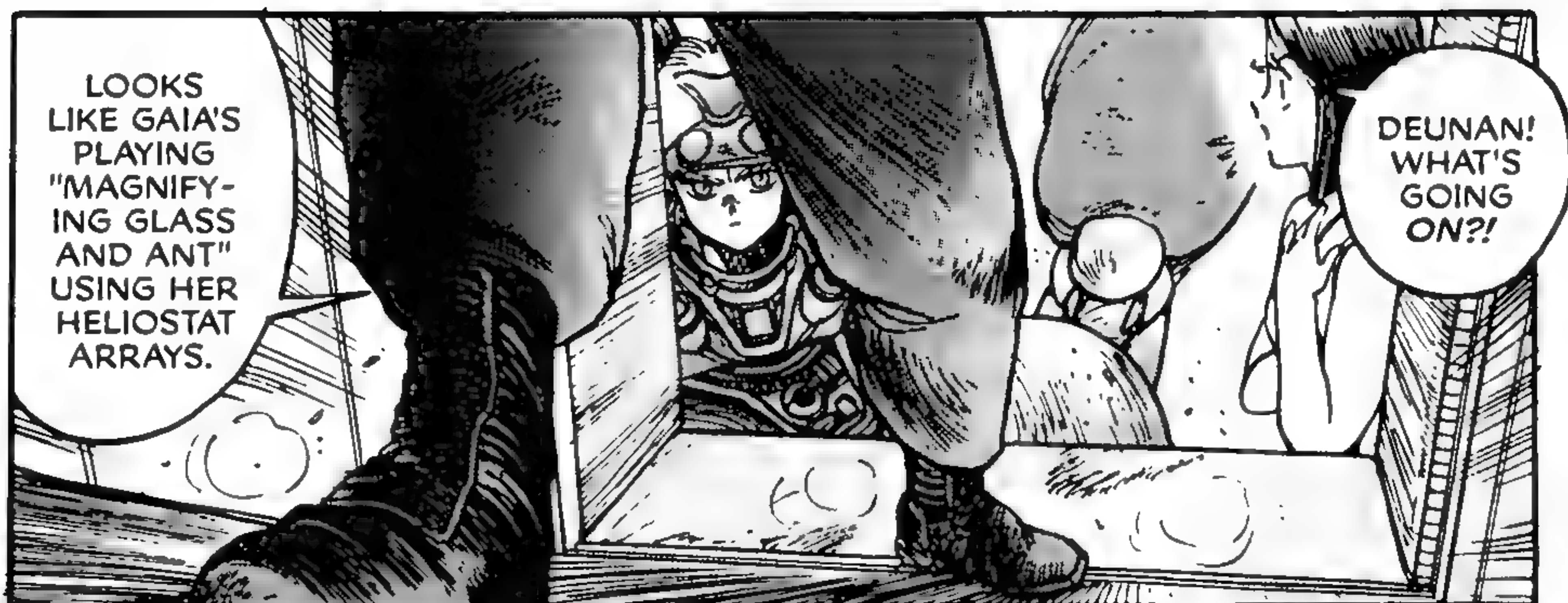
--MUST EVACUATE ALL CIVILIANS TO SHELTERS, ARMORED VEHICLES OR HELICOP--



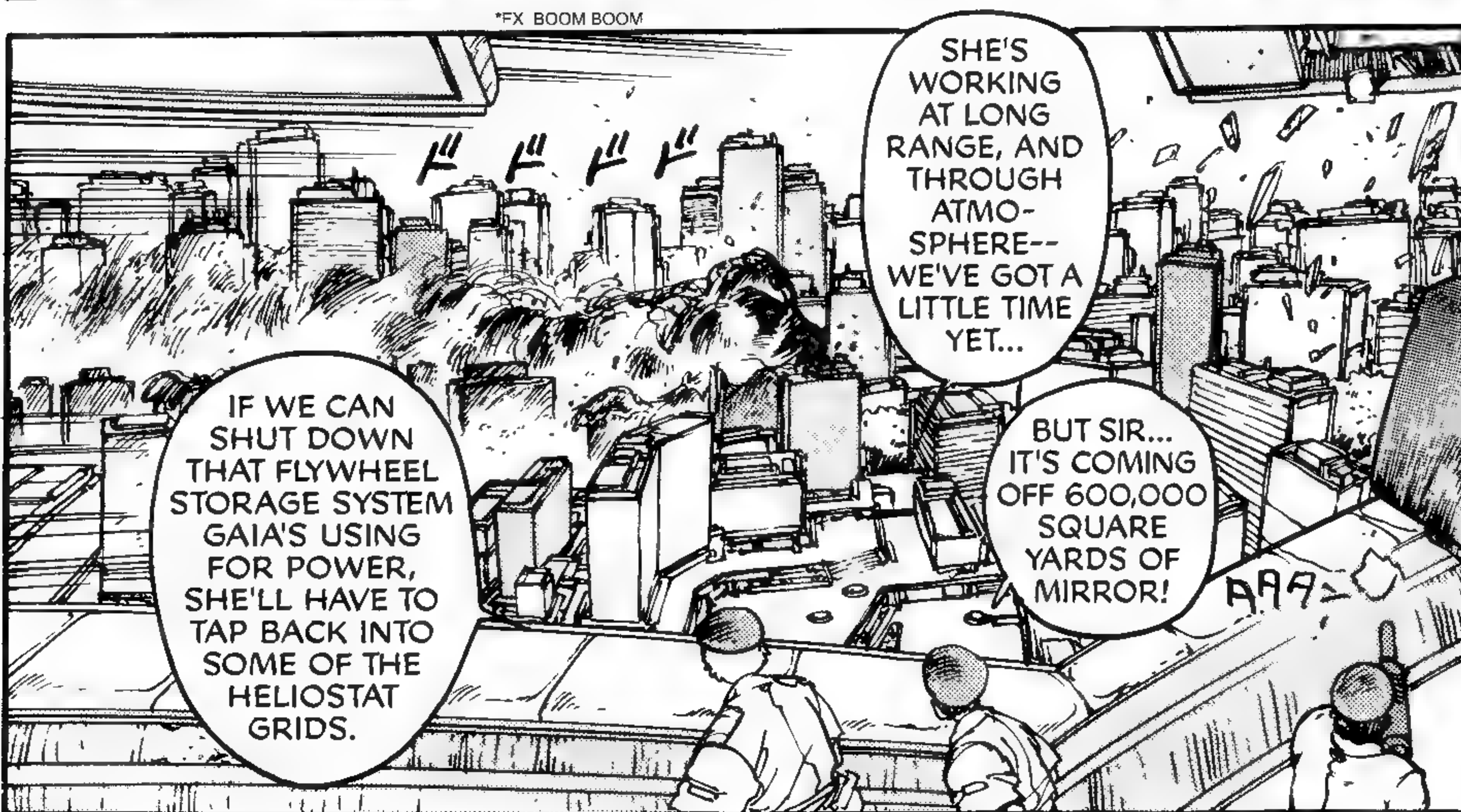
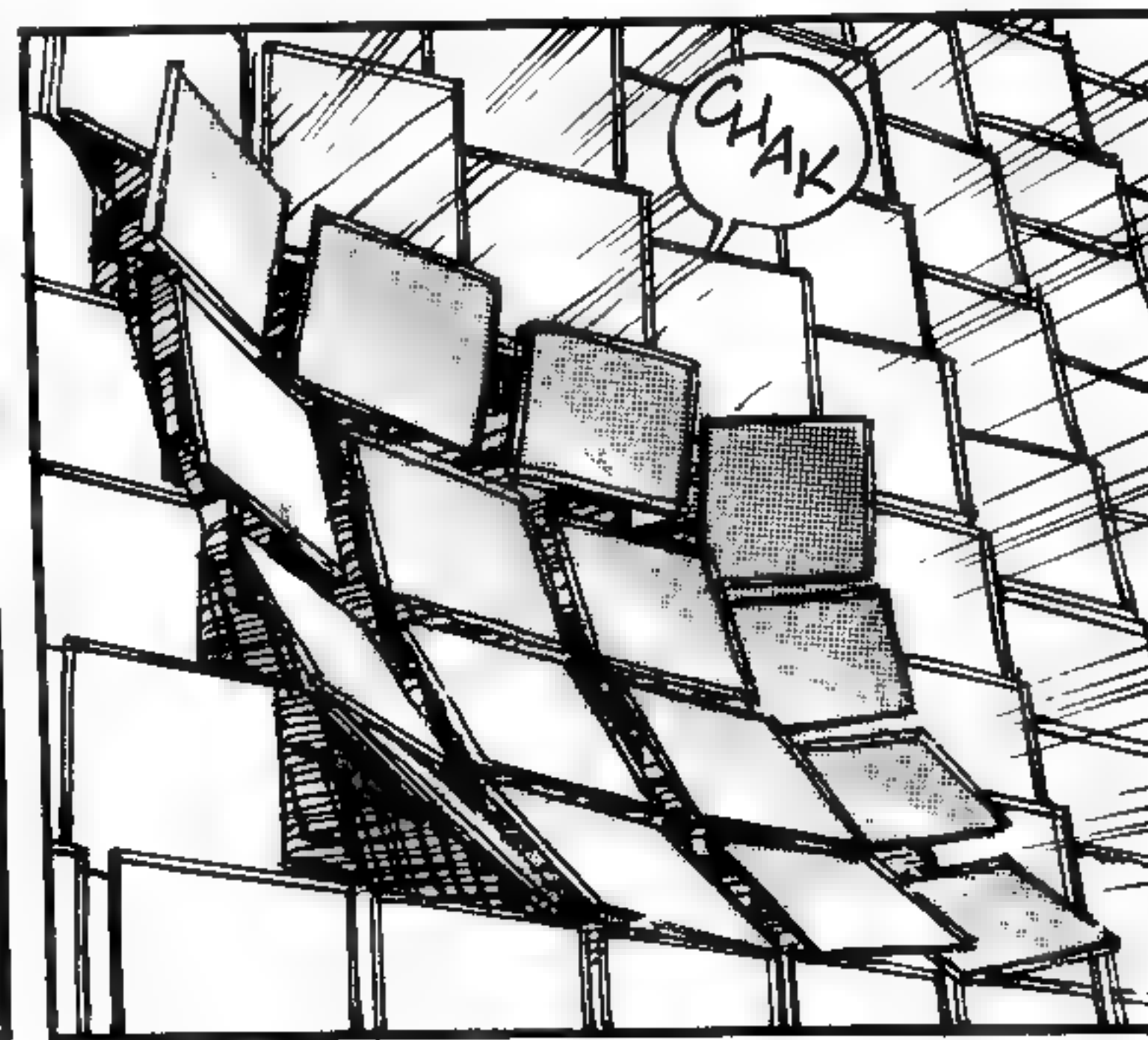
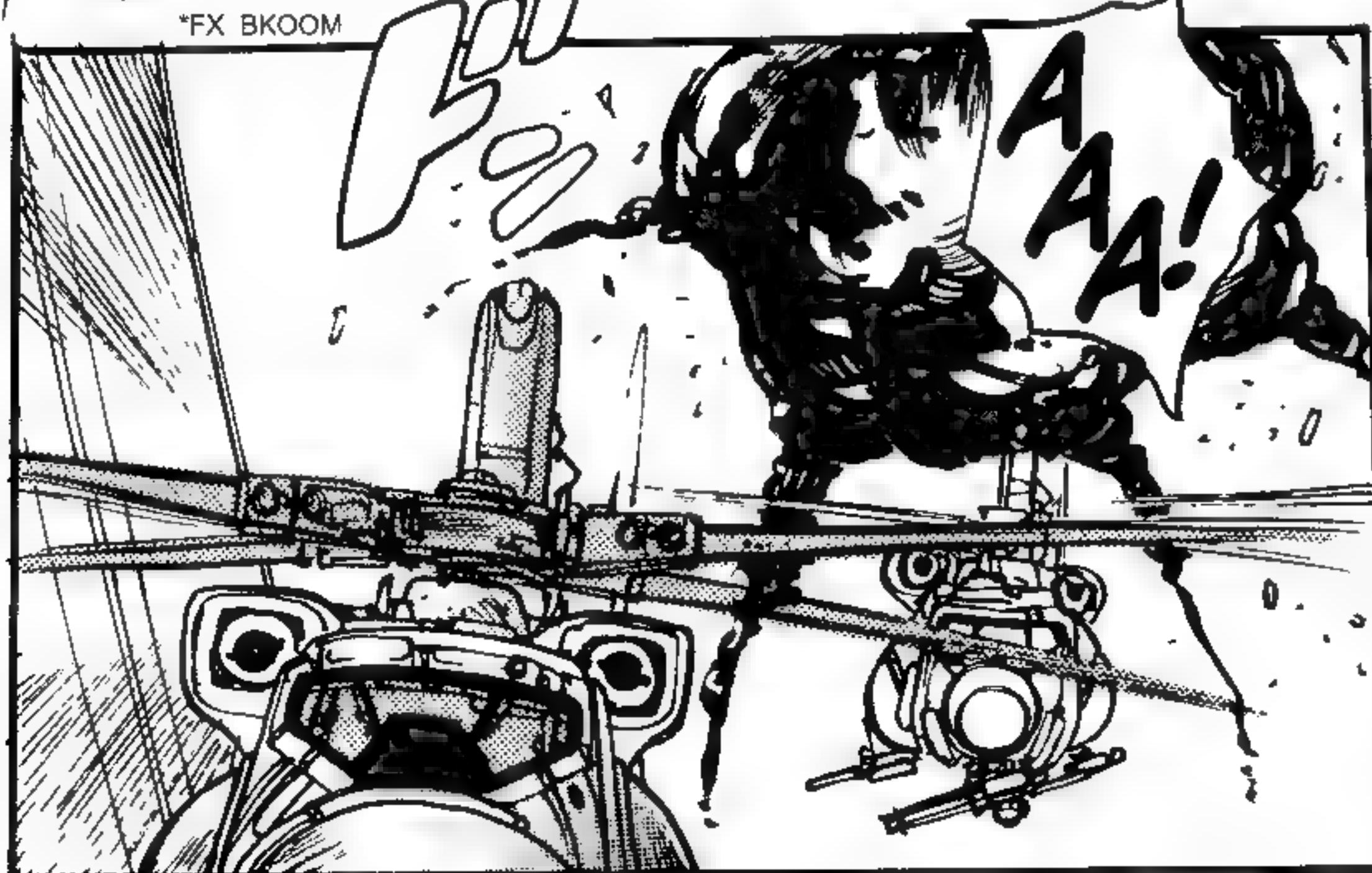
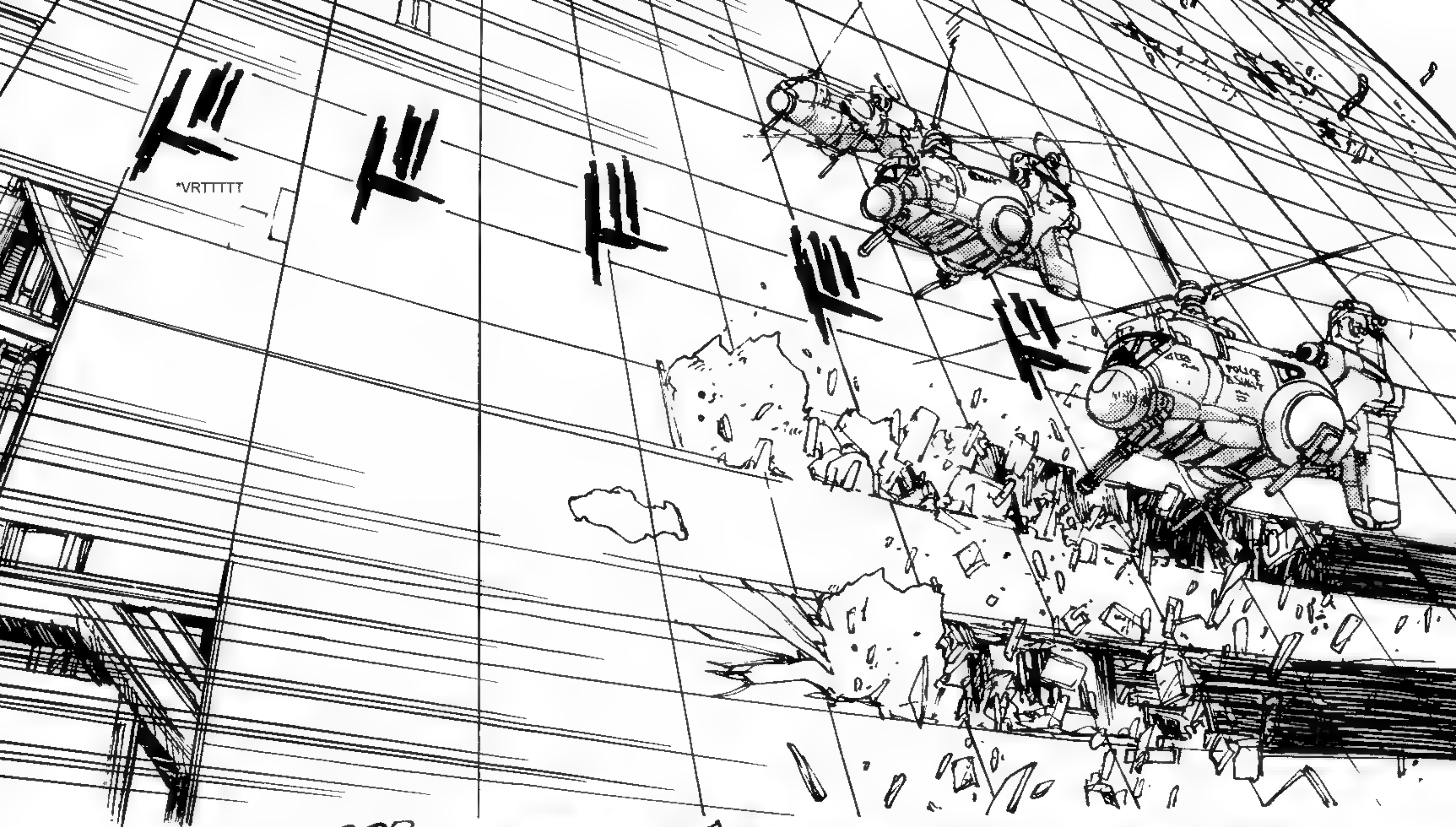
.....

--INK? CAN'T WE USE ONE OF THE GUN PLATFORMS TO--

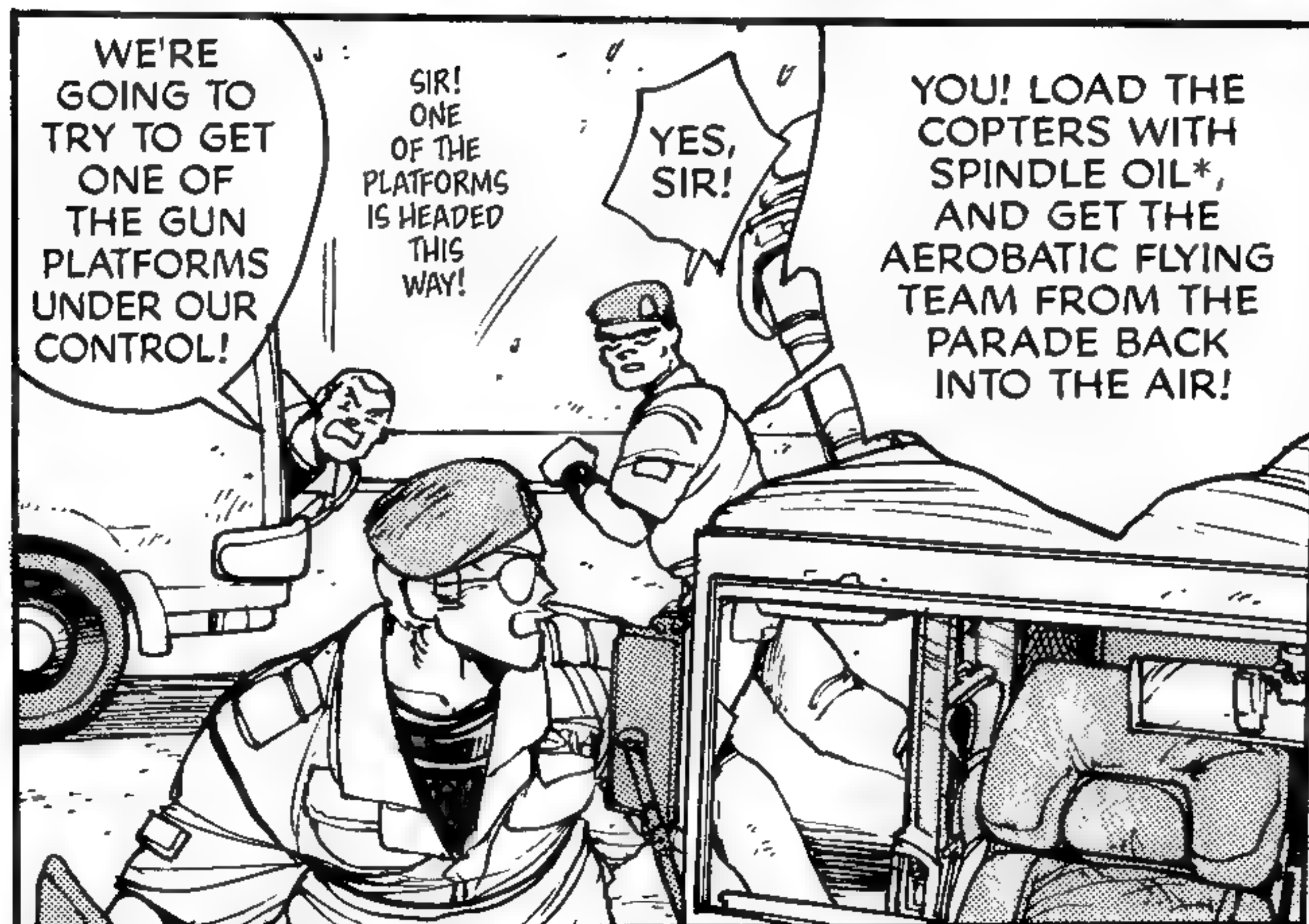
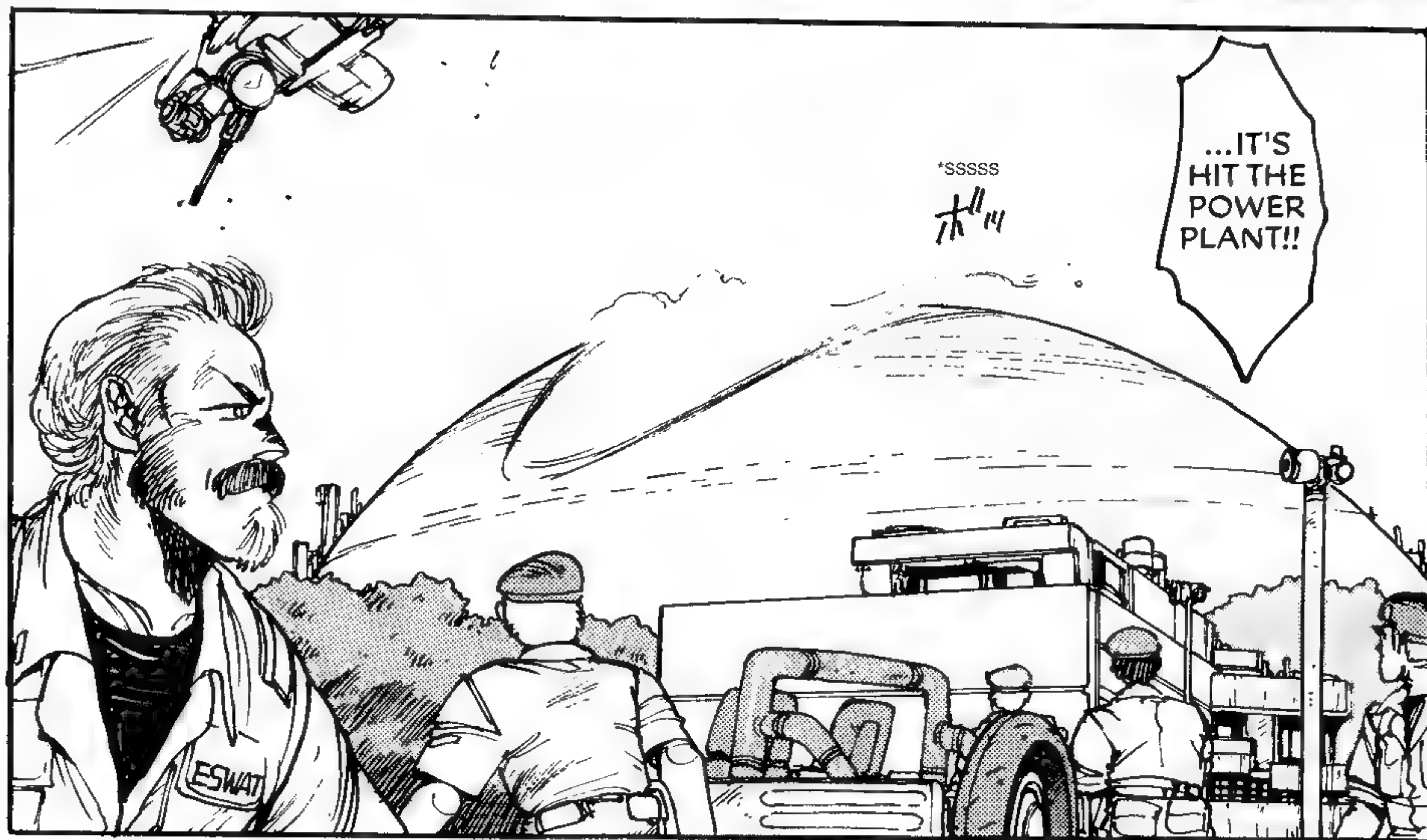






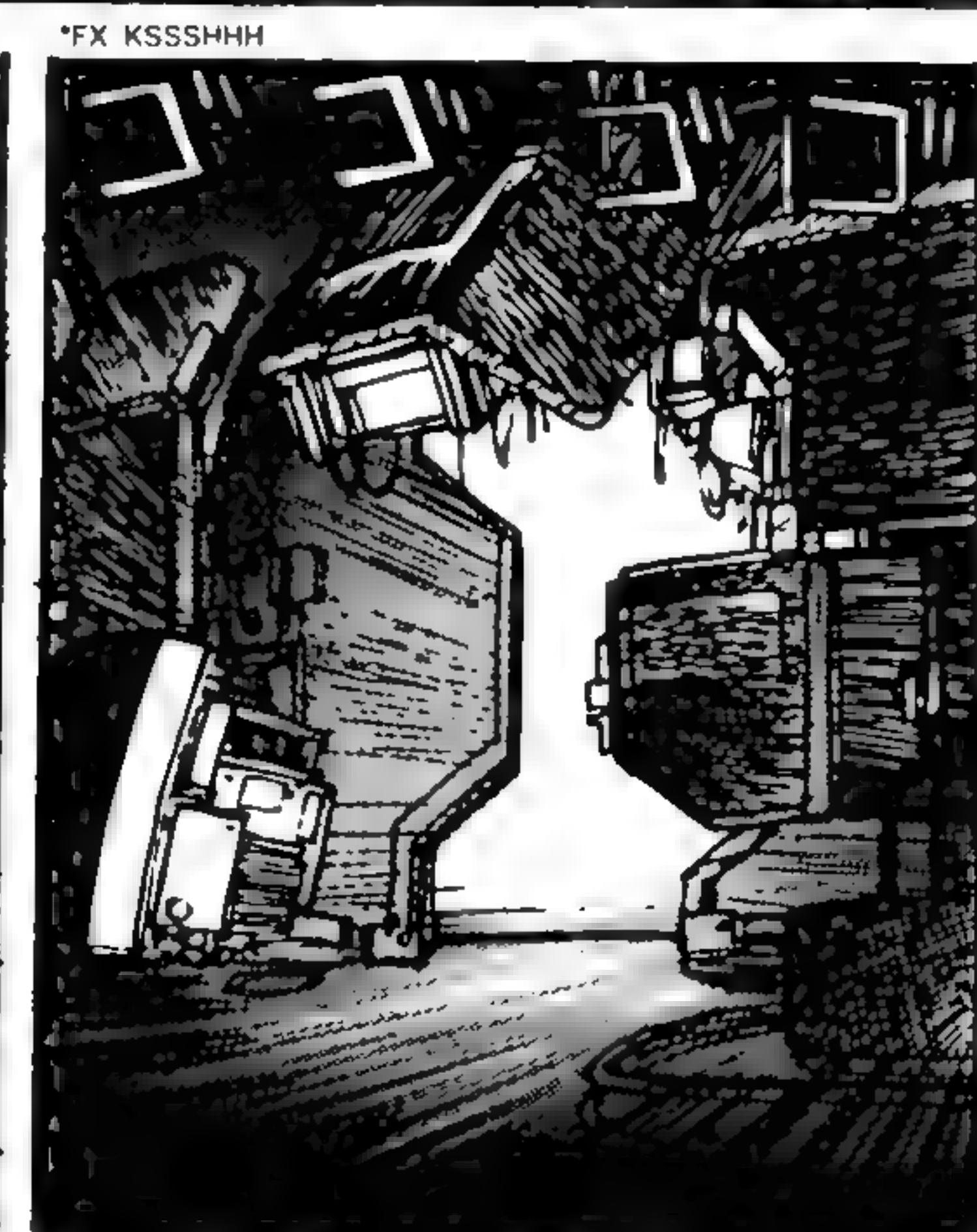
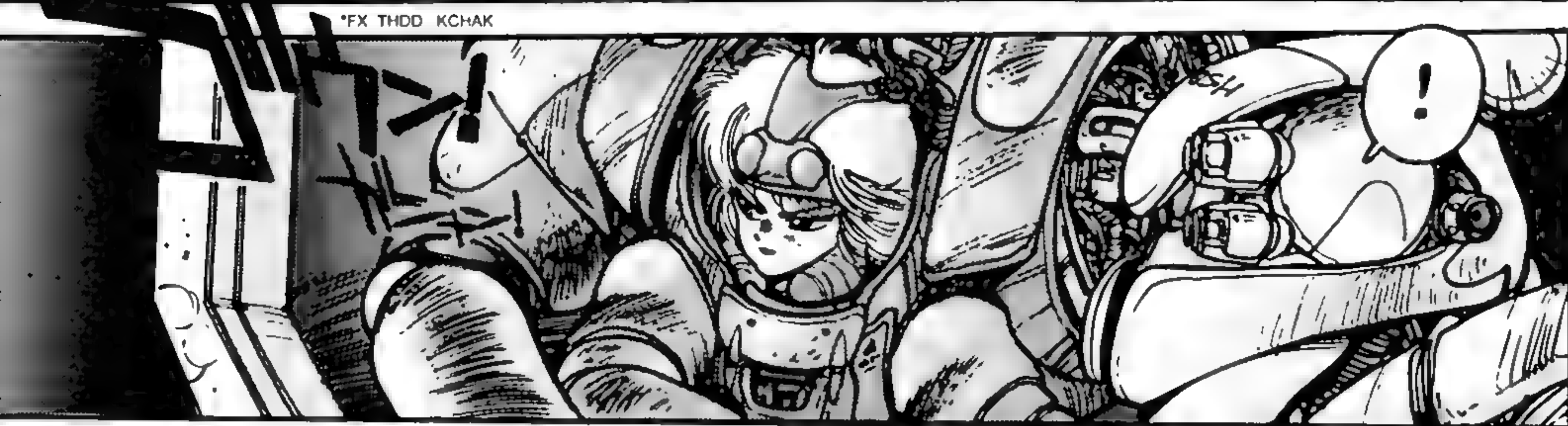
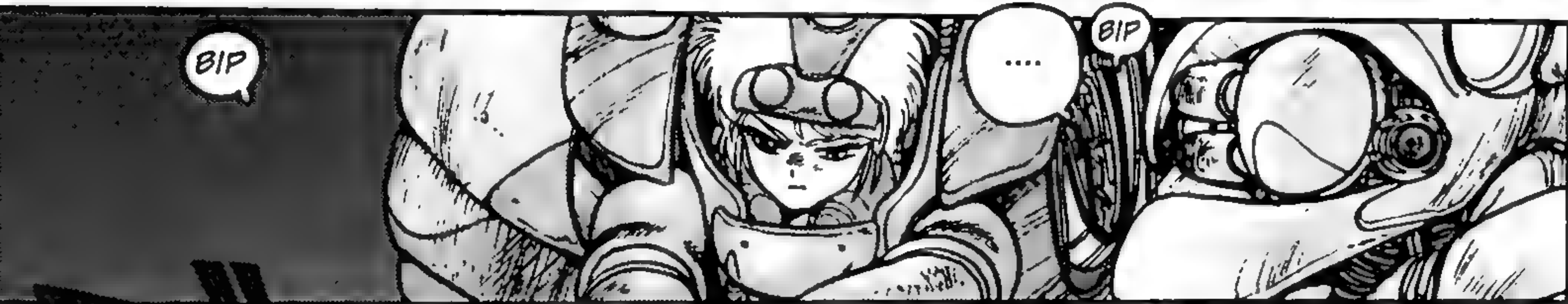
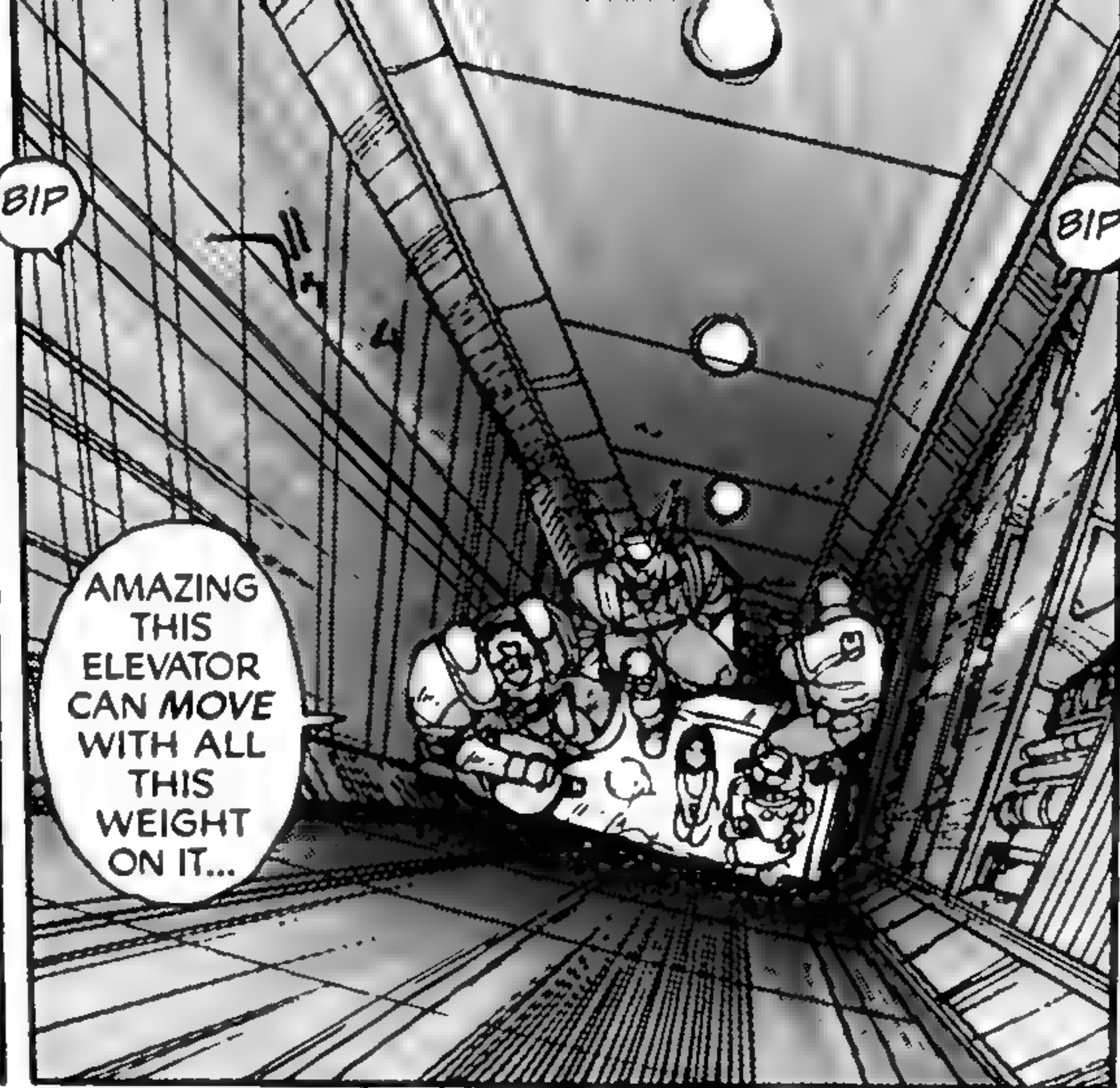
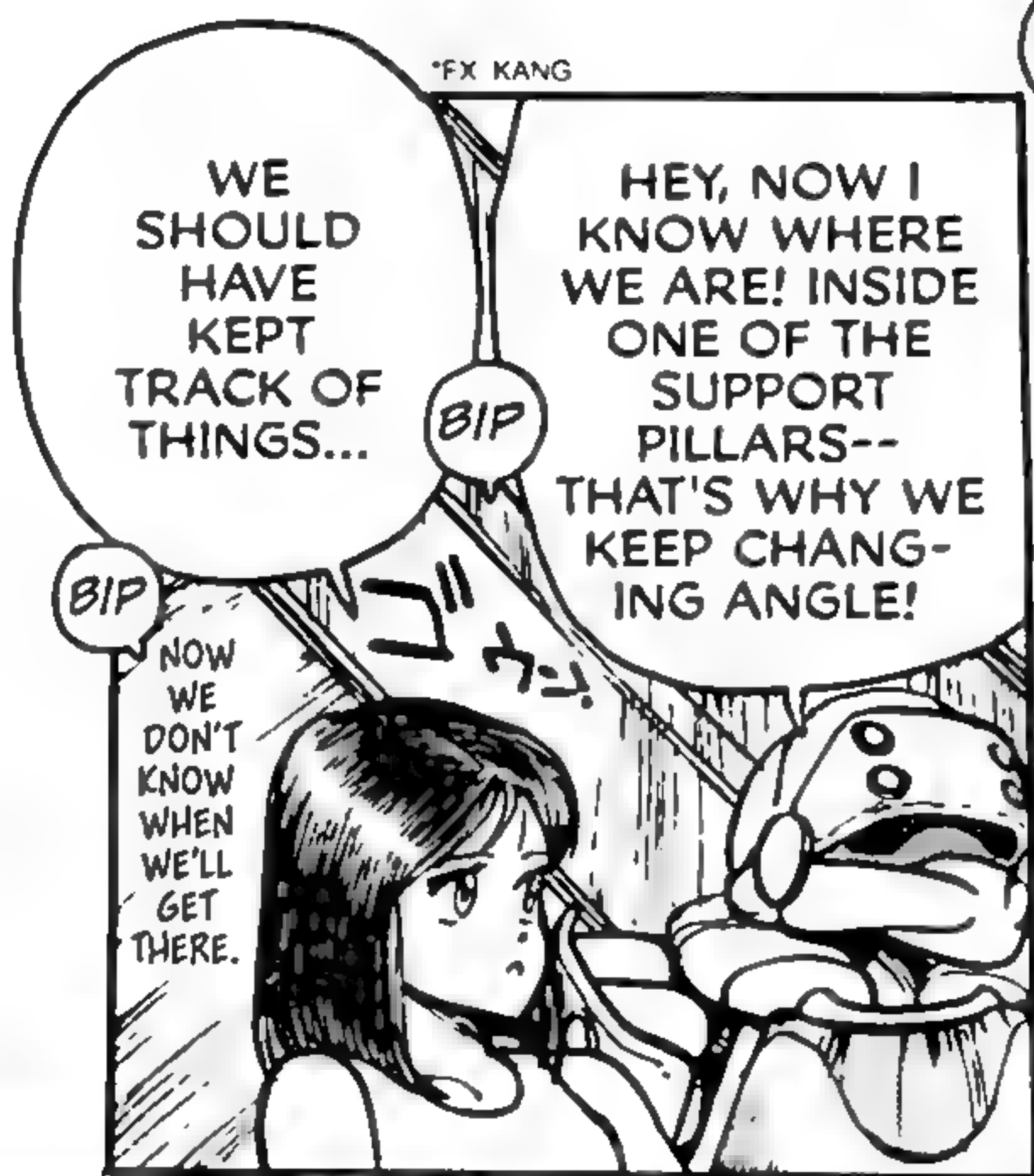




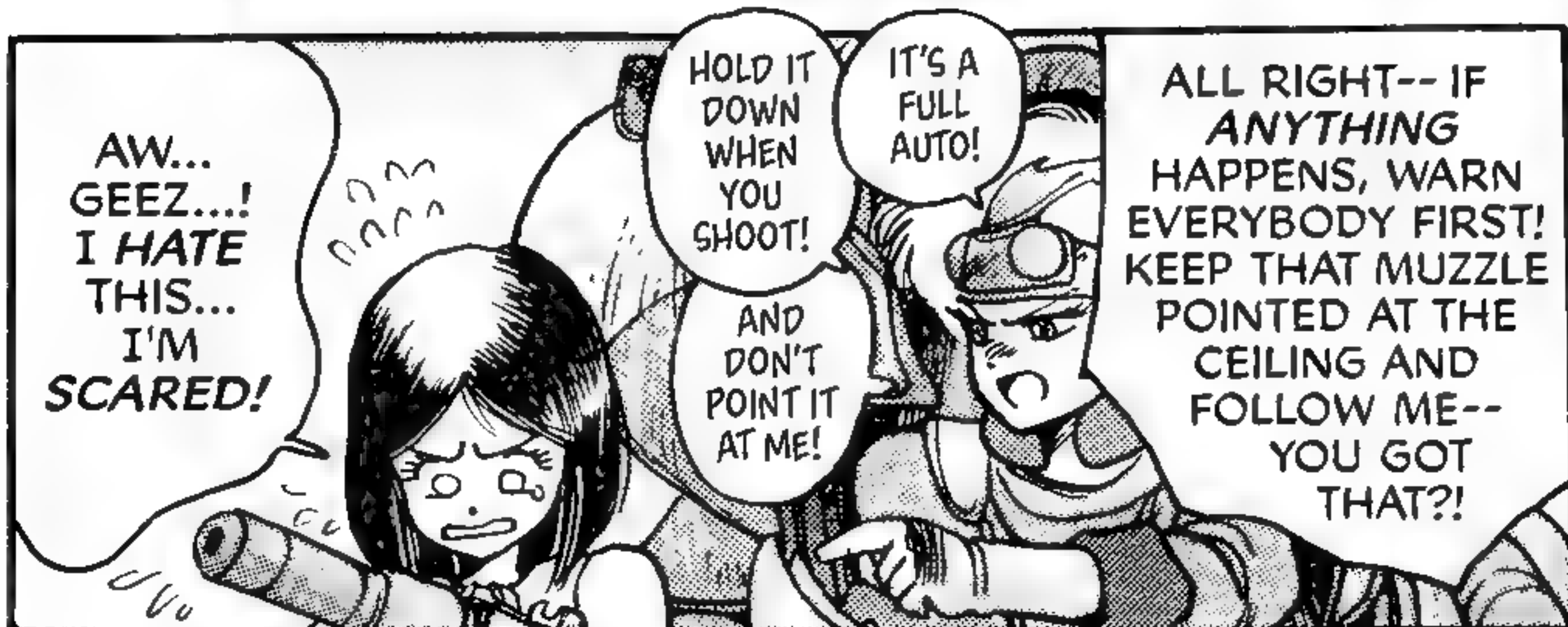
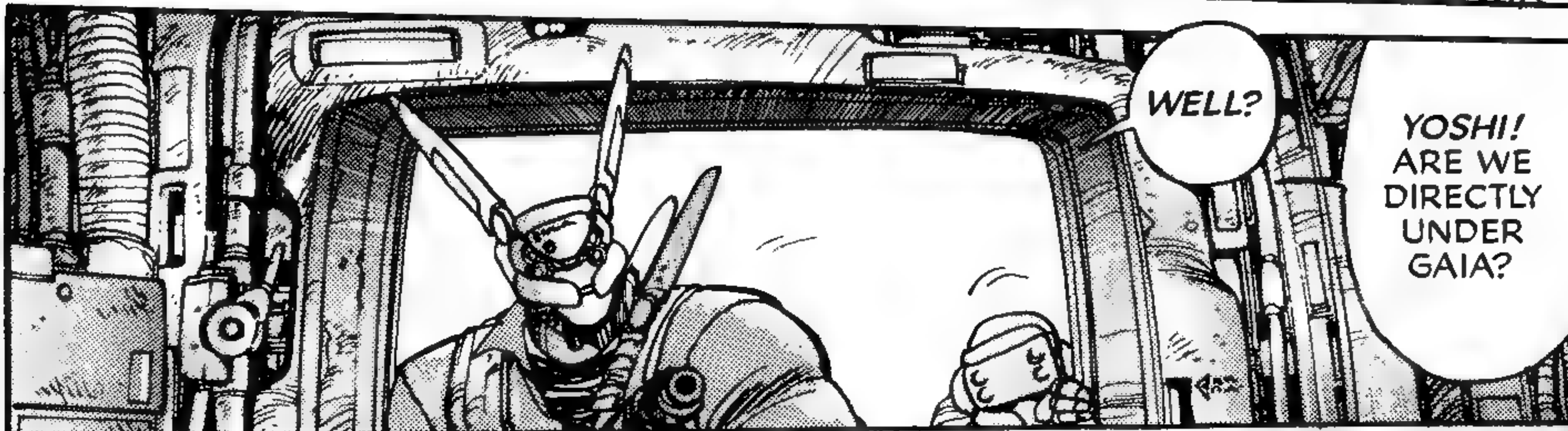
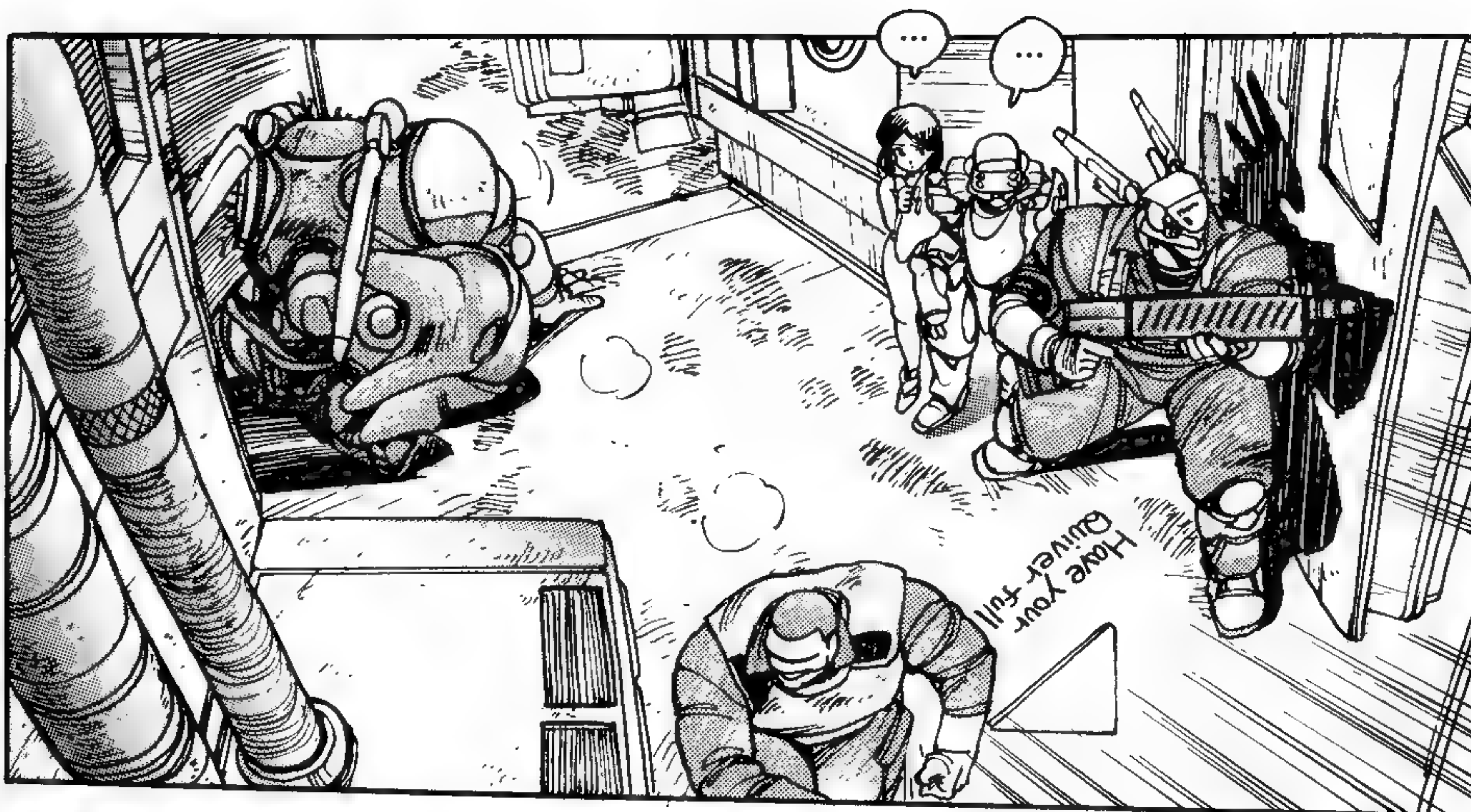


\*injected into aircraft engines to generate smoke for aerobatic performances.

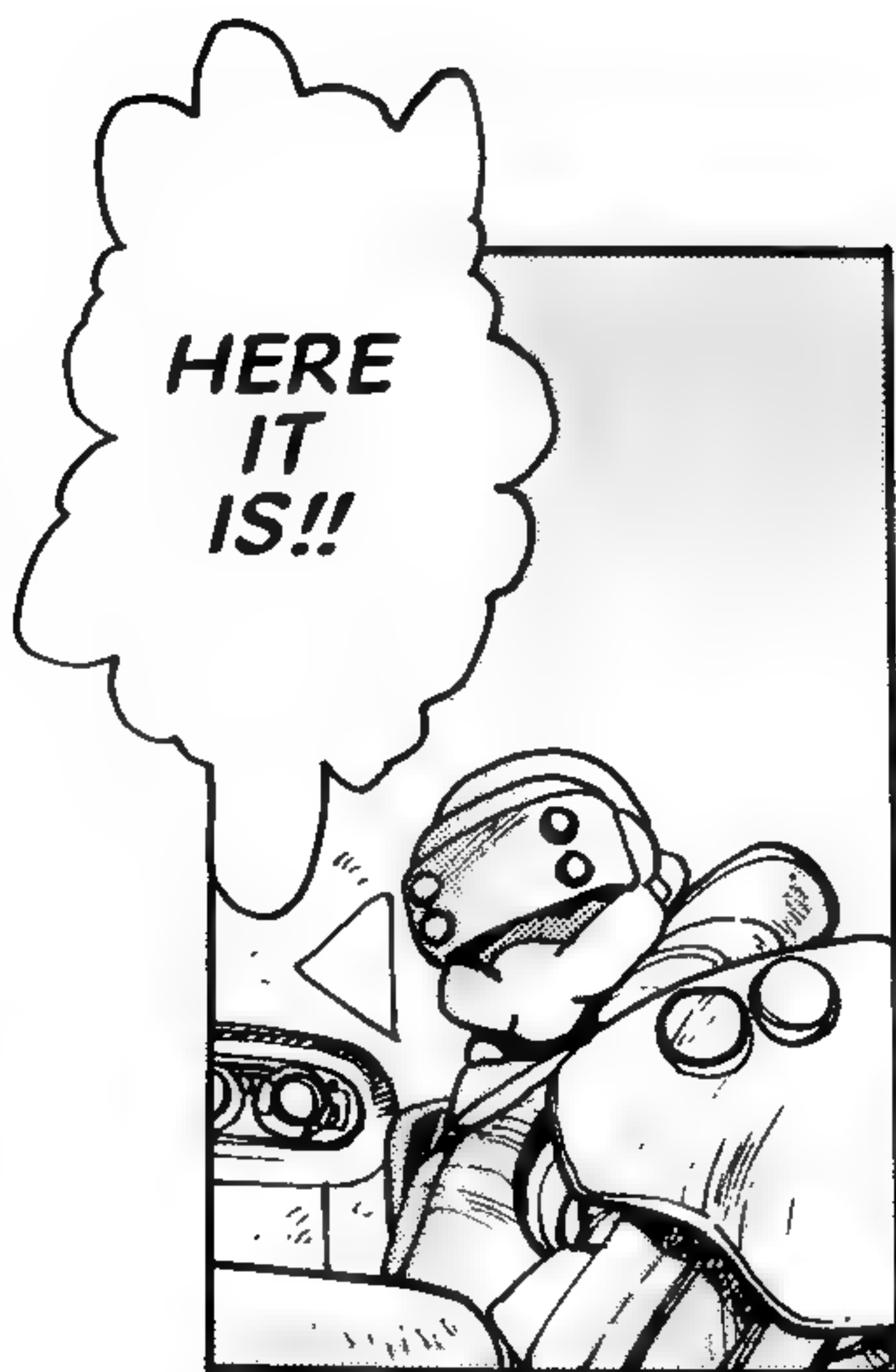












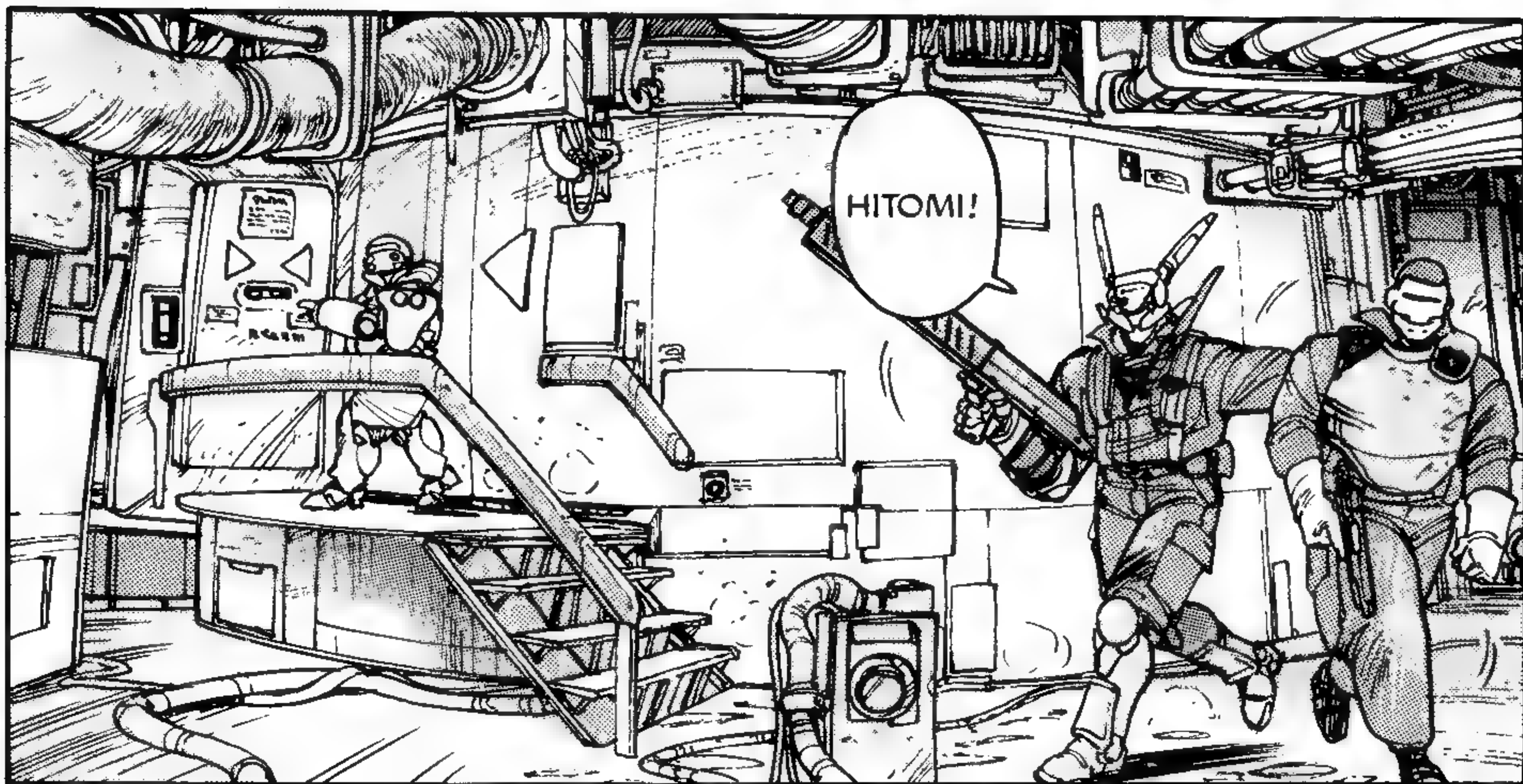
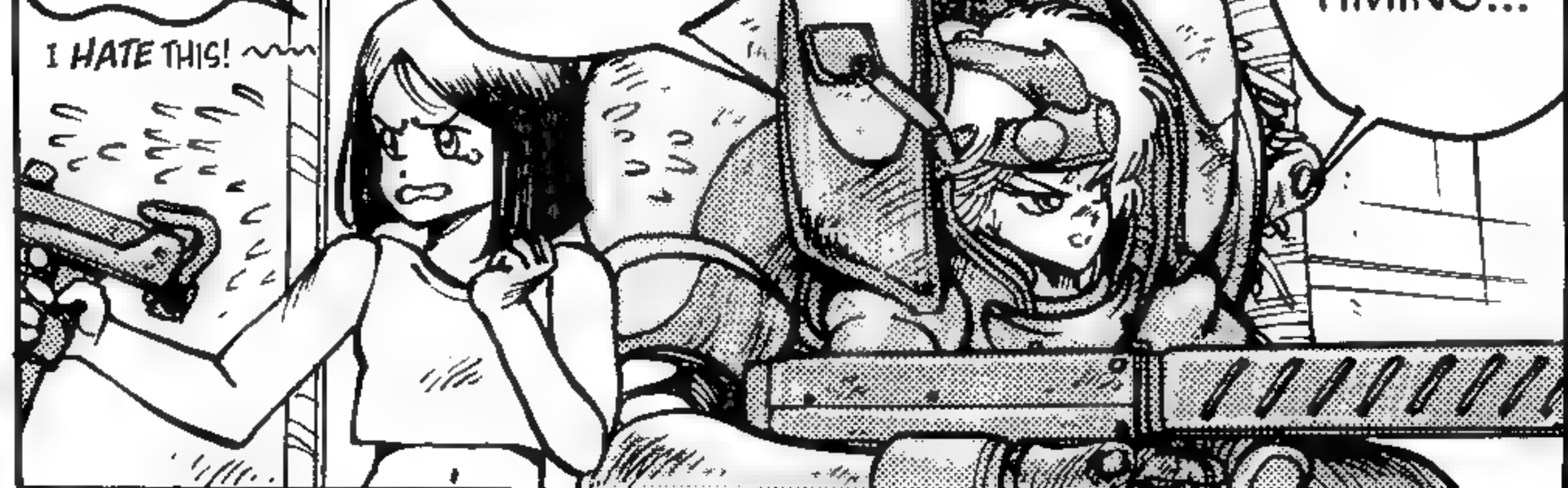
HERE  
IT  
IS!!

GEEZZ...  
IN THAT  
CASE,  
WE'RE  
MORE  
LIKE A  
FIDDLER  
CRAB!

I HATE THIS!

...OR IT  
CAN'T DO  
THE JOB!  
WE HAVE  
TO BE LIKE  
A SINGLE  
ORGANISM...  
A SINGLE  
PAIR OF  
ARMS!

COME  
ON, NOW...  
EVERYONE  
IN A TEAM  
HAS TO  
MOVE  
WITH  
PERFECT  
TIMING...



HITOMI!



TOO  
MUCH  
BACK-  
GROUND  
NOISE.  
CANNOT  
ANSWER.

ANY-  
ONE  
ELSE  
MOVING  
AROUND  
OUT  
THERE?



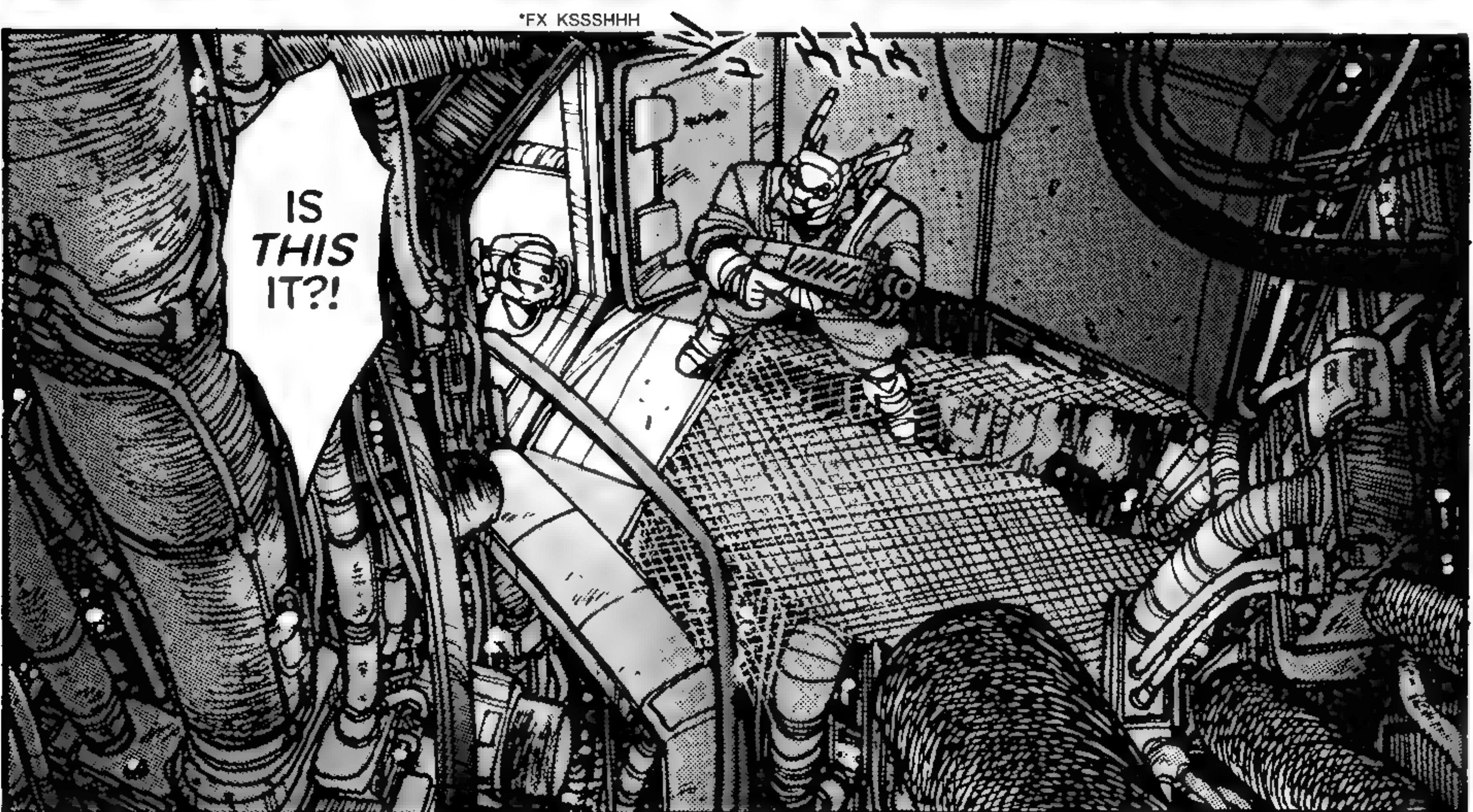
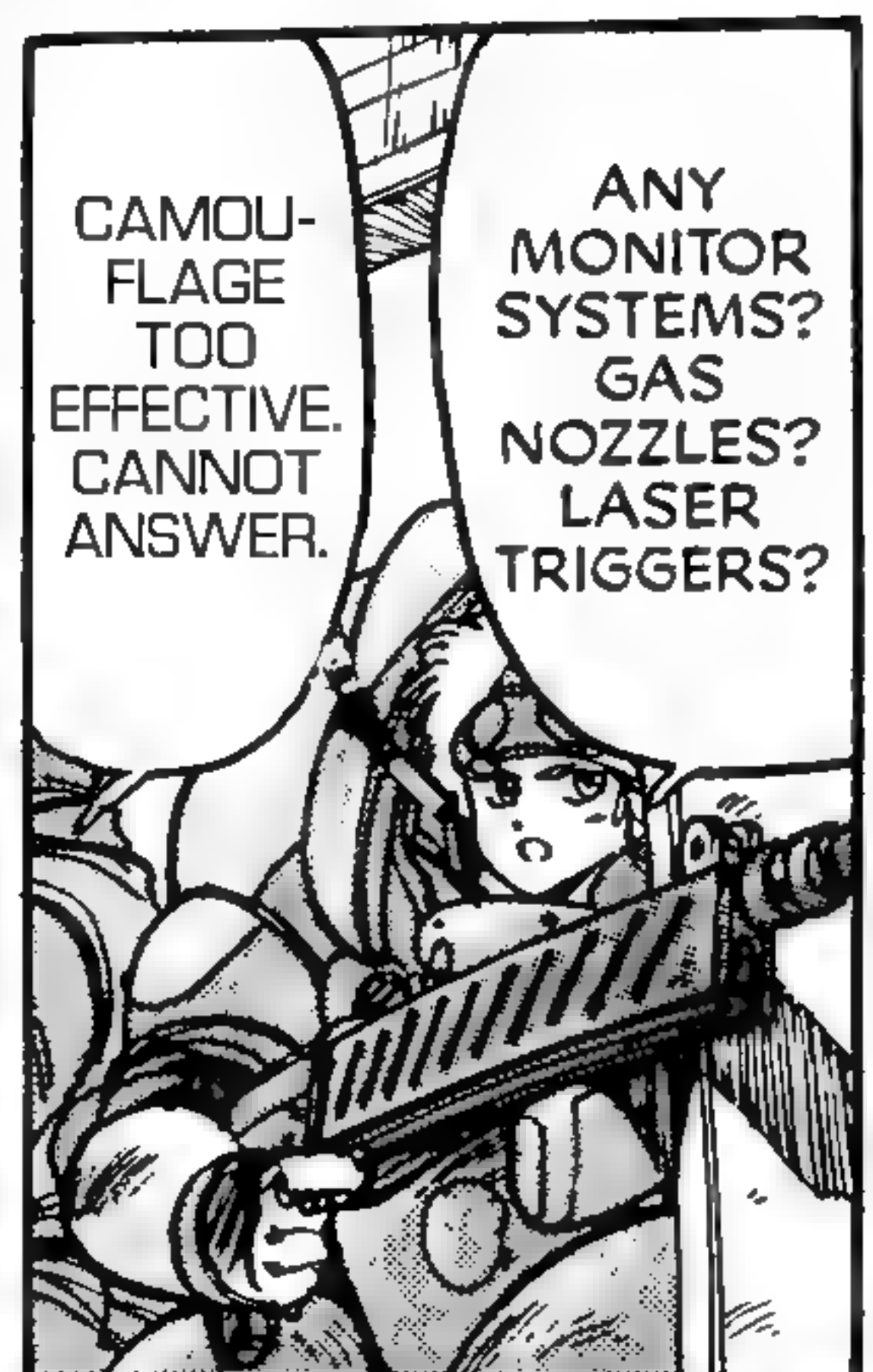
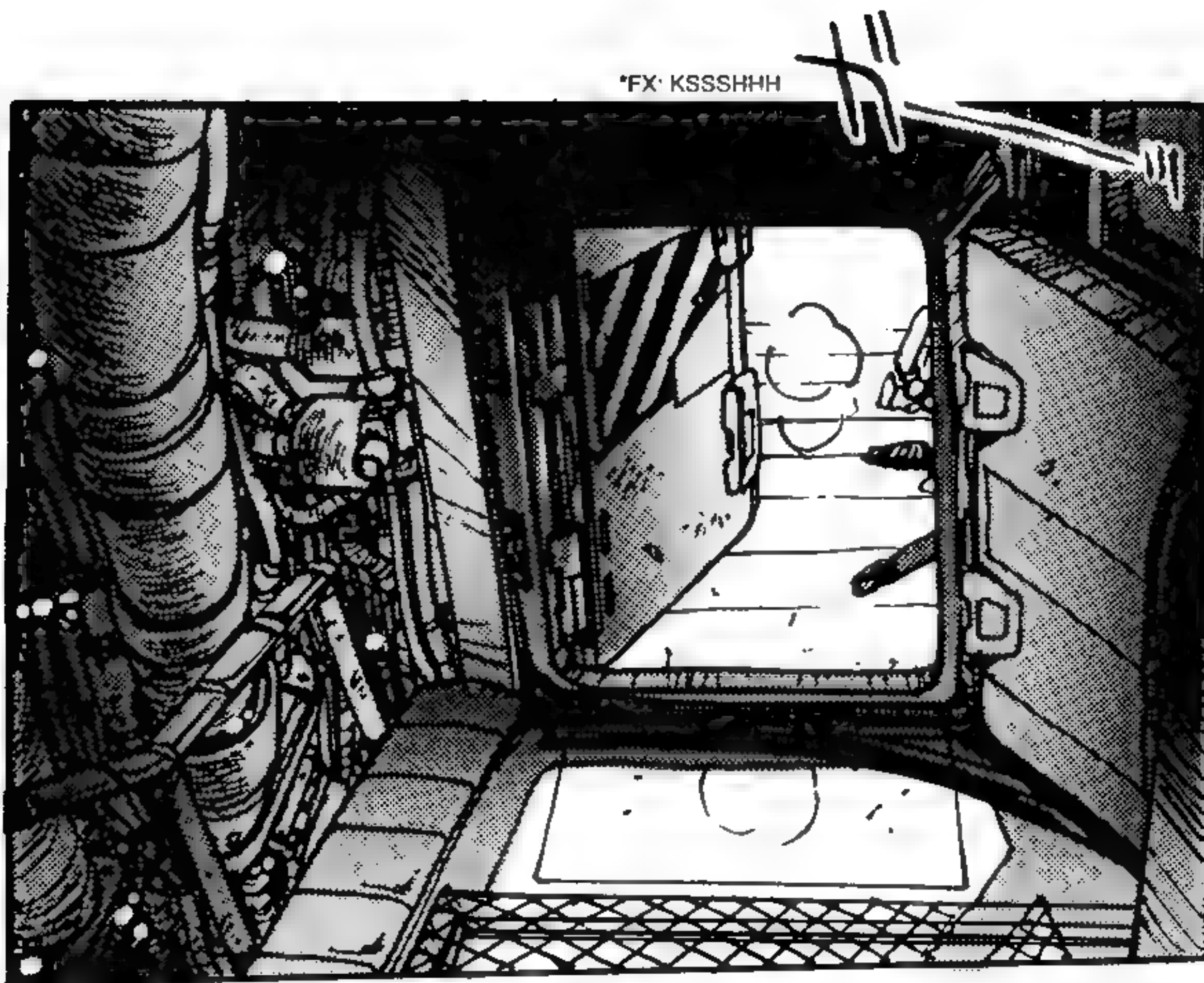
QUESTION  
TOO  
ABSTRACT.  
CANNOT  
ANSWER.

ANY  
CHANCE  
WE'LL BE  
ATTACKED?

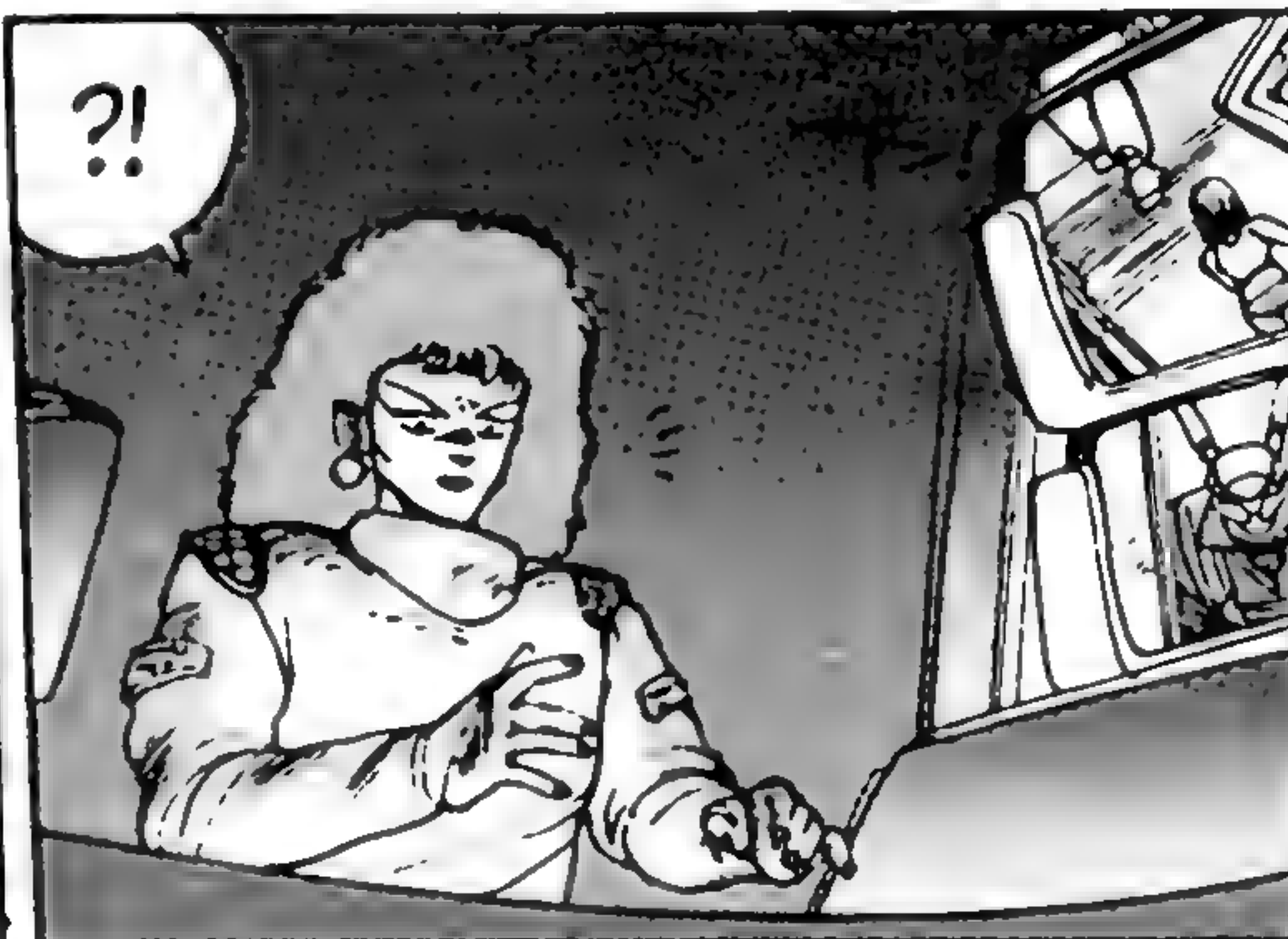
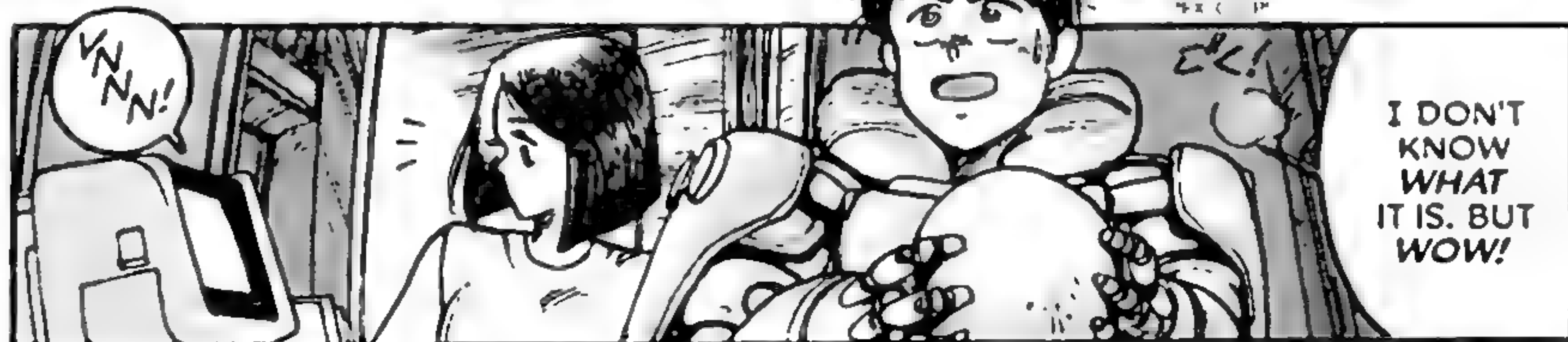
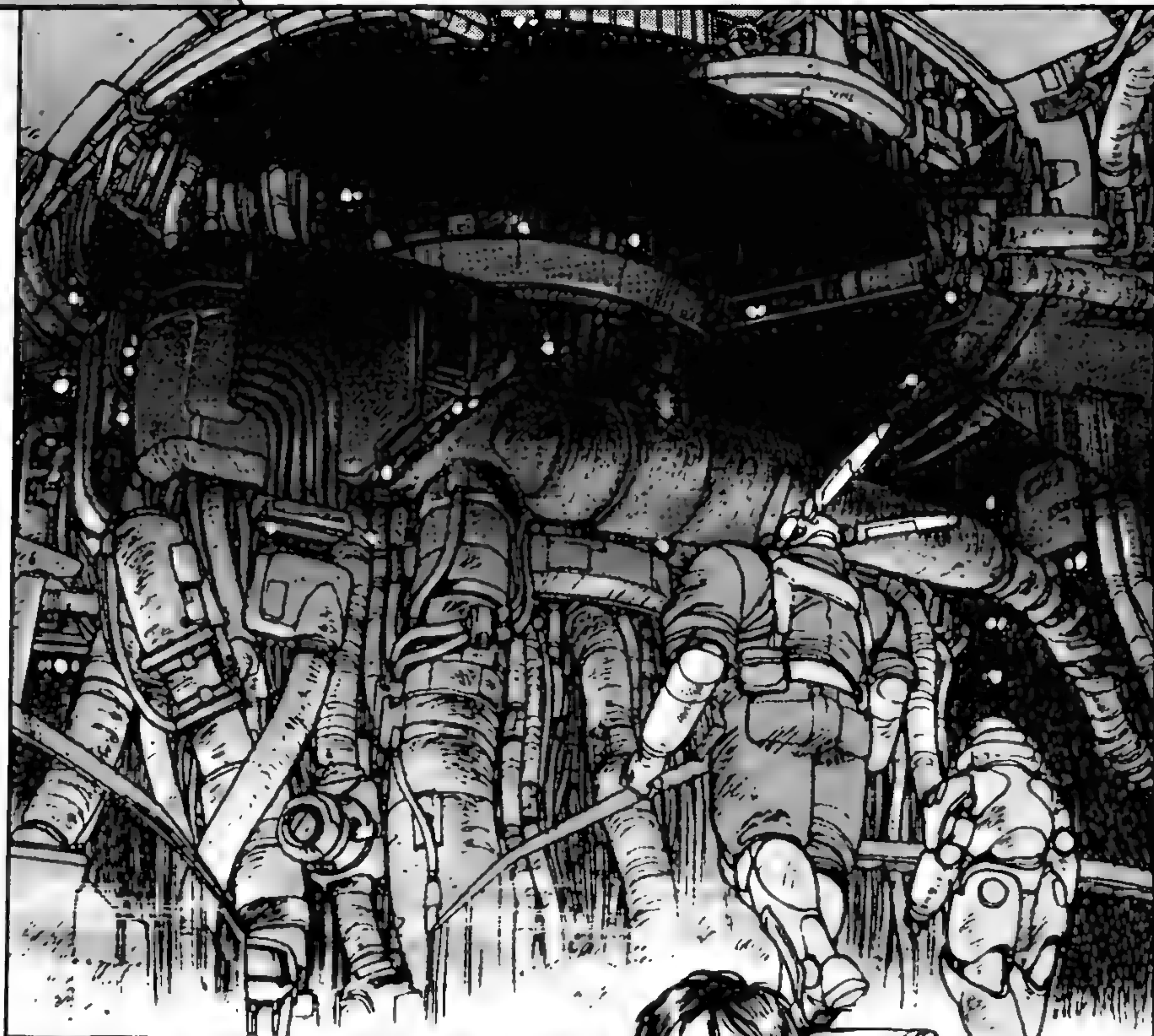


COMING...

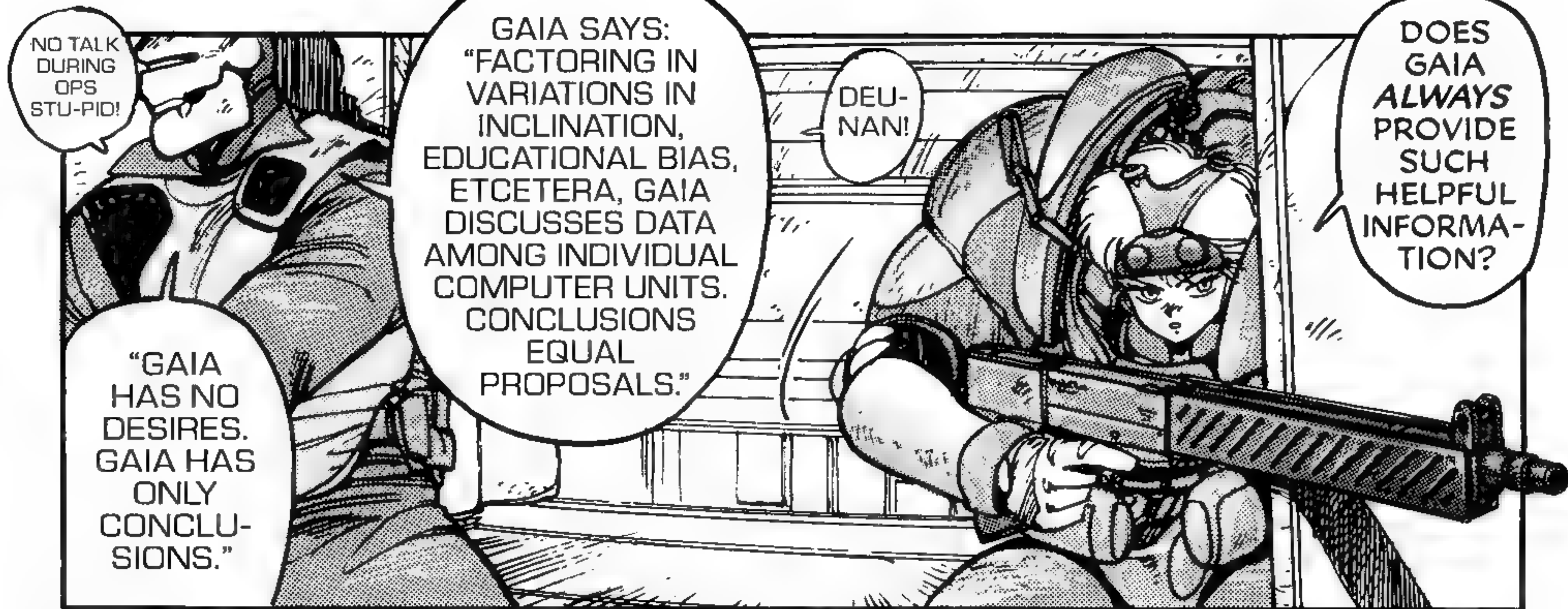












NO TALK DURING OPS STU-PID!

"GAIA HAS NO DESIRES. GAIA HAS ONLY CONCLUSIONS."

GAIA SAYS: "FACTORING IN VARIATIONS IN INCLINATION, EDUCATIONAL BIAS, ETCETERA, GAIA DISCUSSES DATA AMONG INDIVIDUAL COMPUTER UNITS. CONCLUSIONS EQUAL PROPOSALS."

DEU-NAN!

DOES GAIA ALWAYS PROVIDE SUCH HELPFUL INFORMATION?



OKAY... ALL CLEAR. WE'LL TAKE THE NEXT DOOR.



...OR IS IT ACTUALLY YOU WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT, GAIA?

BUT RELYING ON MACHINES AND LOGIC ALONE HAS ITS FAULTS, TOO. IS IT REALLY BIOROIDS WHO ARE DANGEROUS...



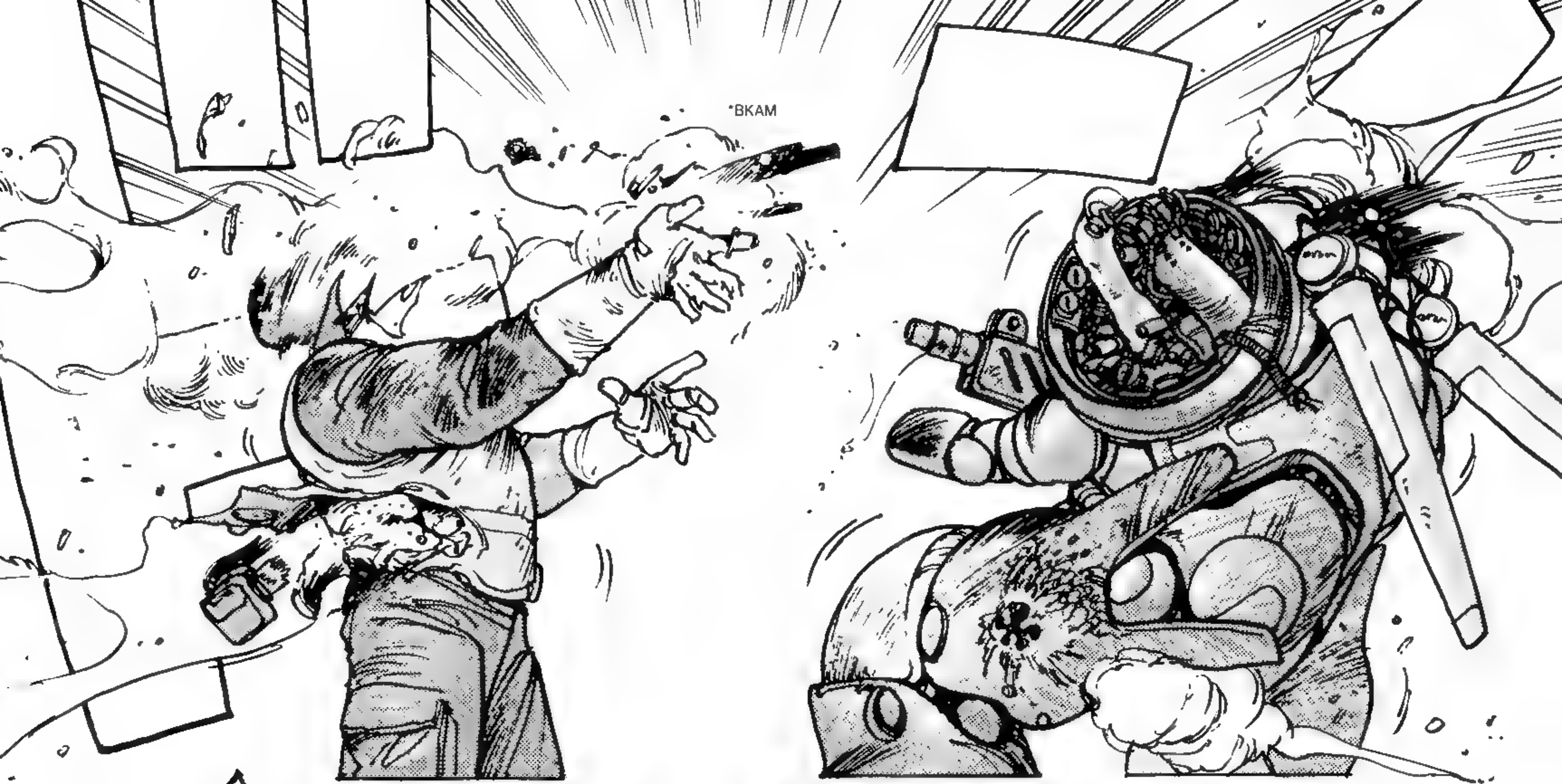
ARUGESS SAID THERE'S A THIRD ROAD, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT IT MIGHT BE--

BUT IF WE DON'T, WE'LL BE BACK TO THE PRE-WAR DAYS AGAIN.

IF WE STOP GAIA NOW, THERE'LL BE NO MORE CHECKS AND BALANCES ON THE BIOROIDS...

\*ZRCH

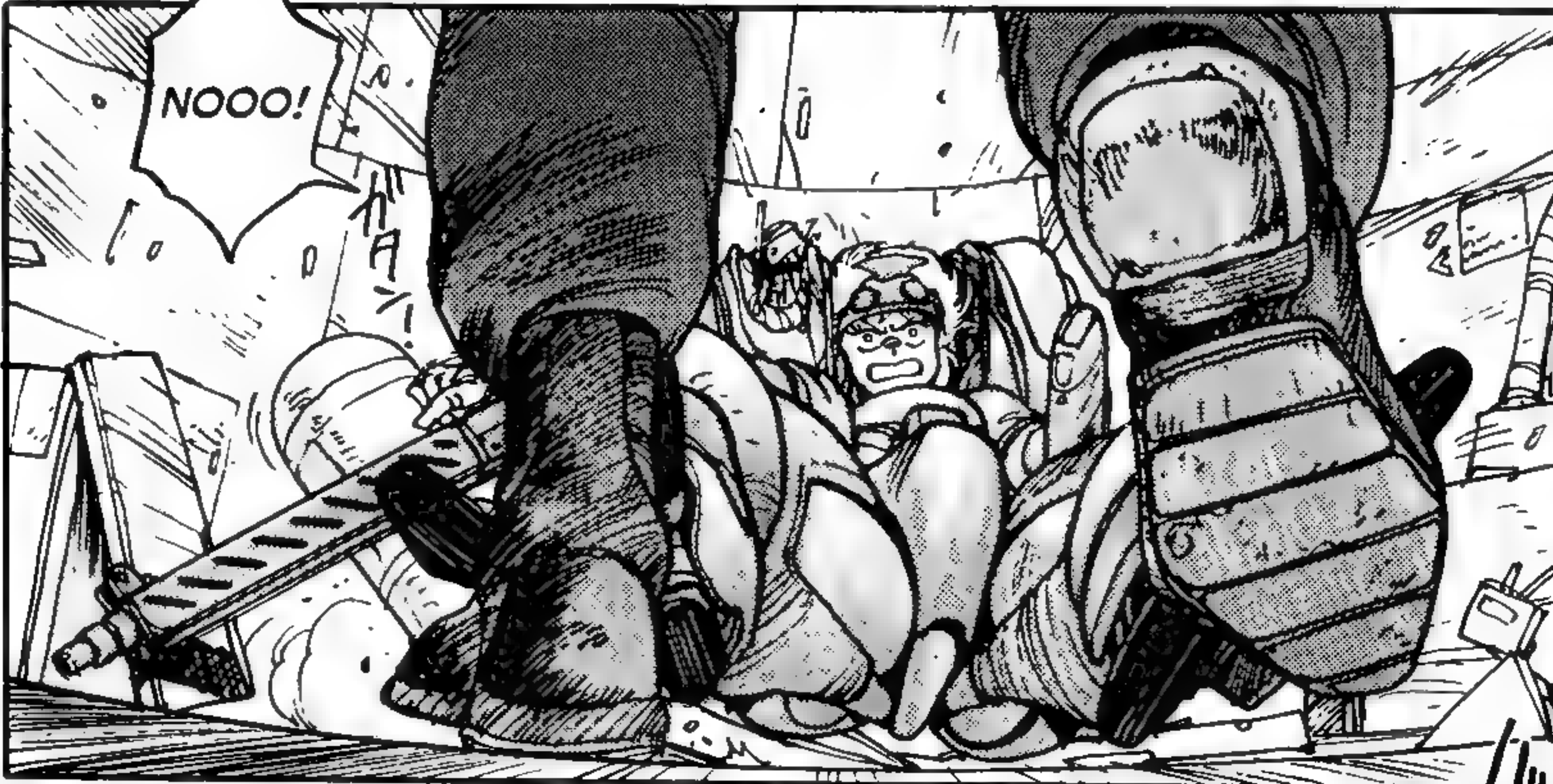




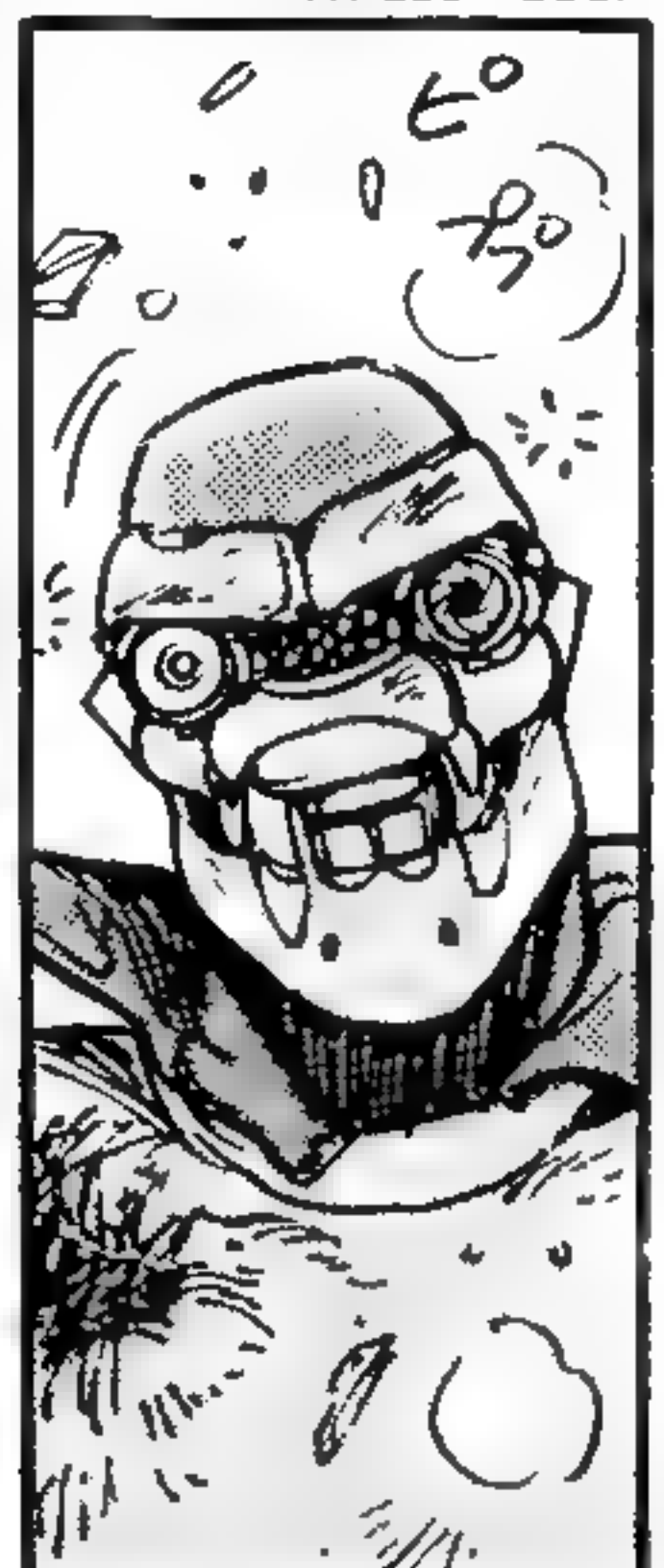
\*BKAM

\*FX SKRASH

\*FX BEEP BOOP



NOOO!

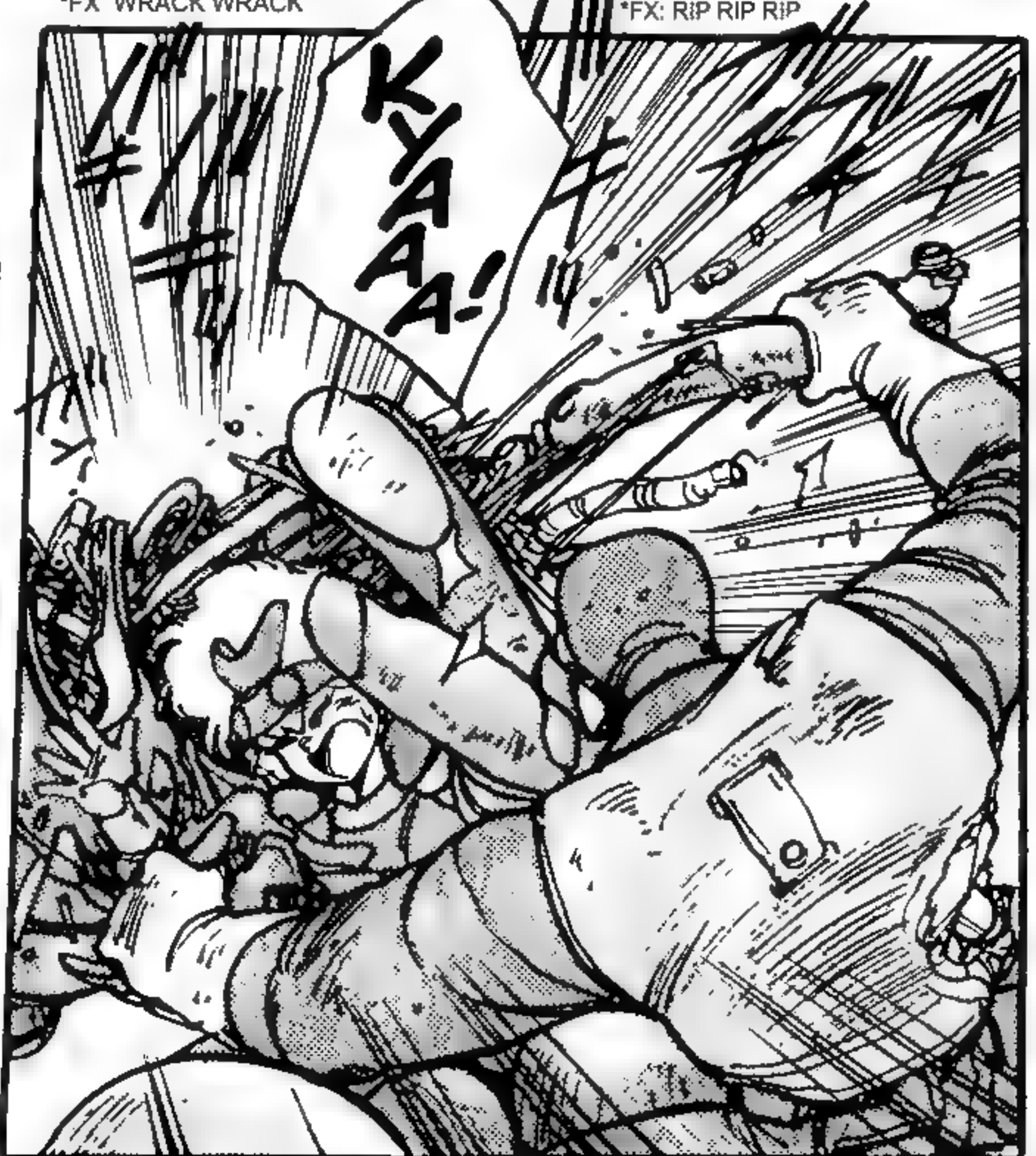


HNN!



\*FX WRACK WRACK

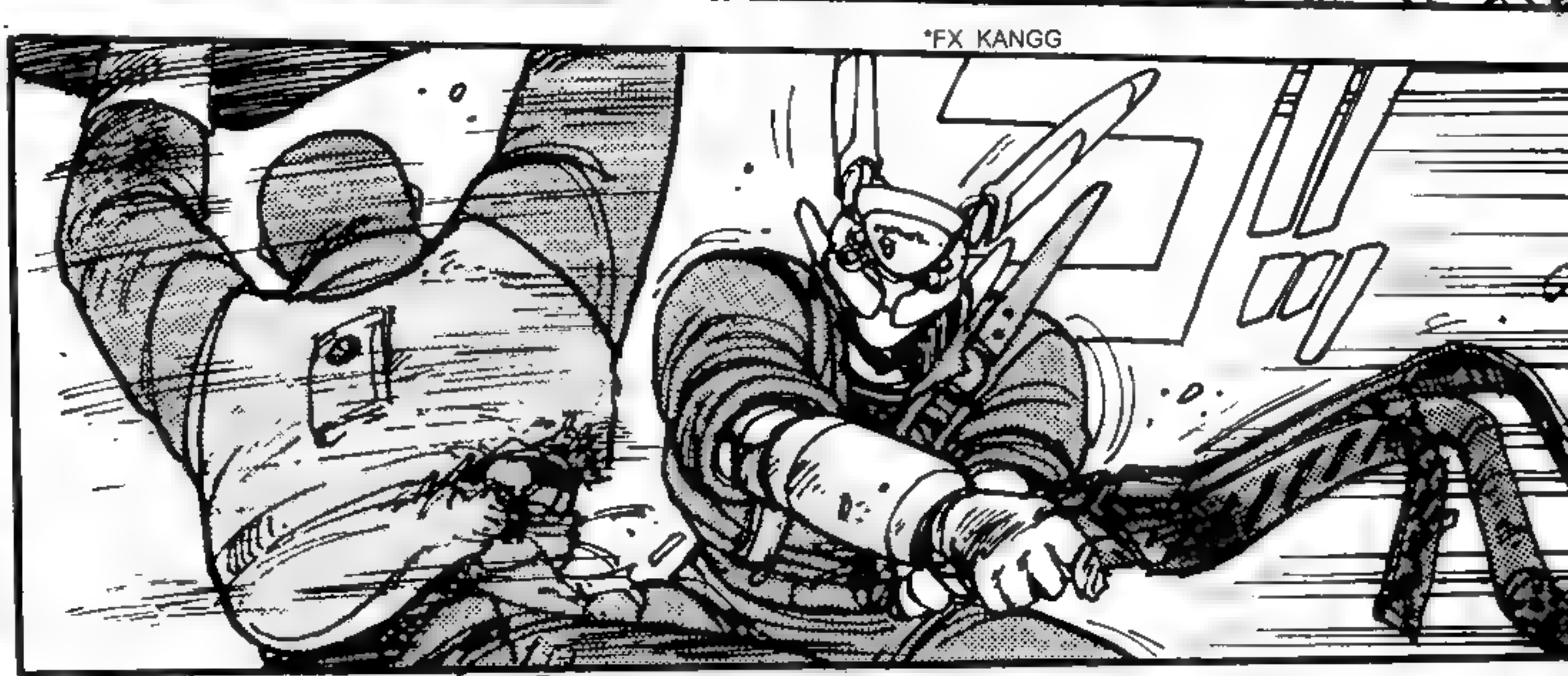
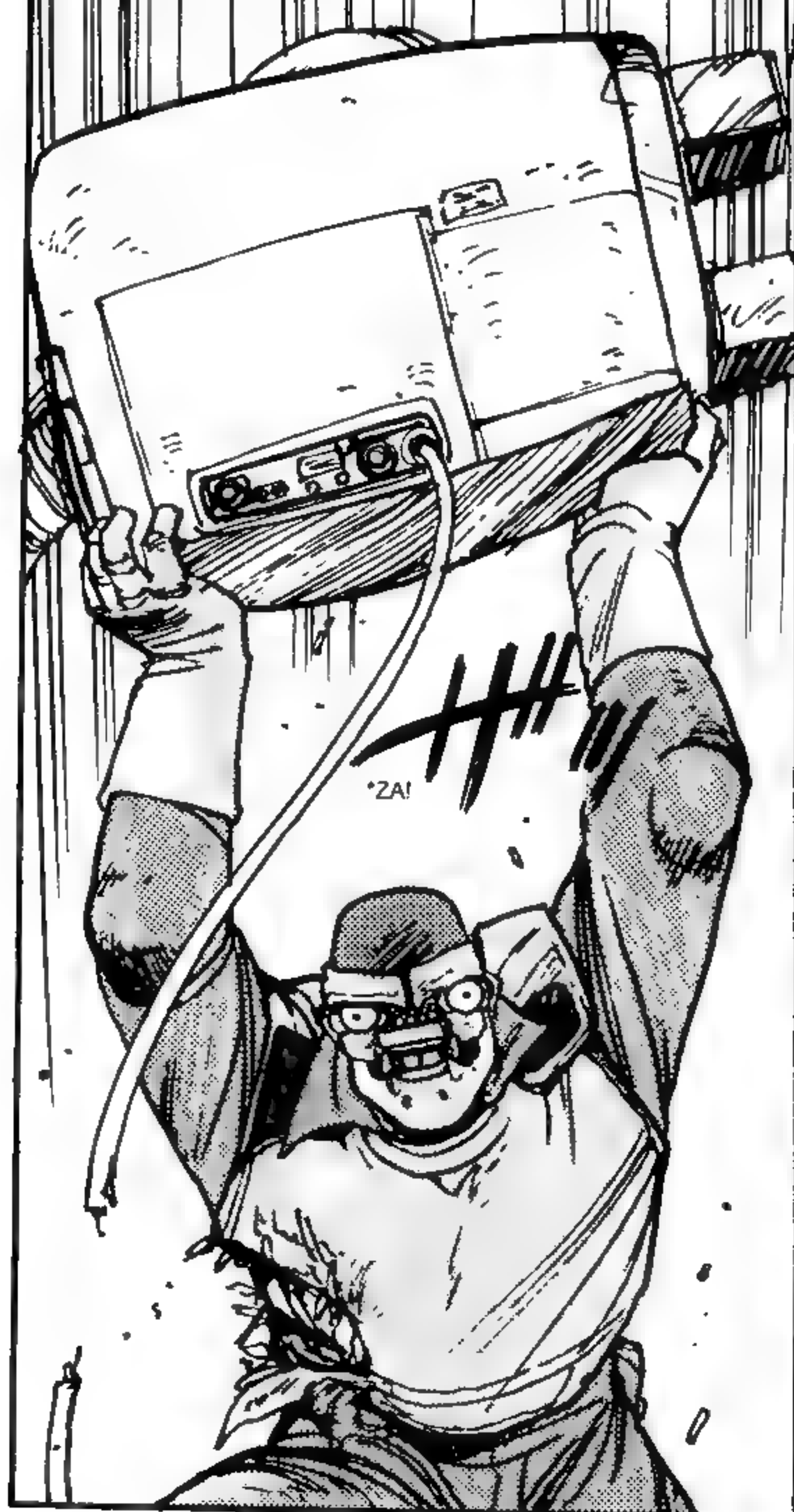
\*FX: RIP RIP RIP



KYAAA!

\*FX WHRANG

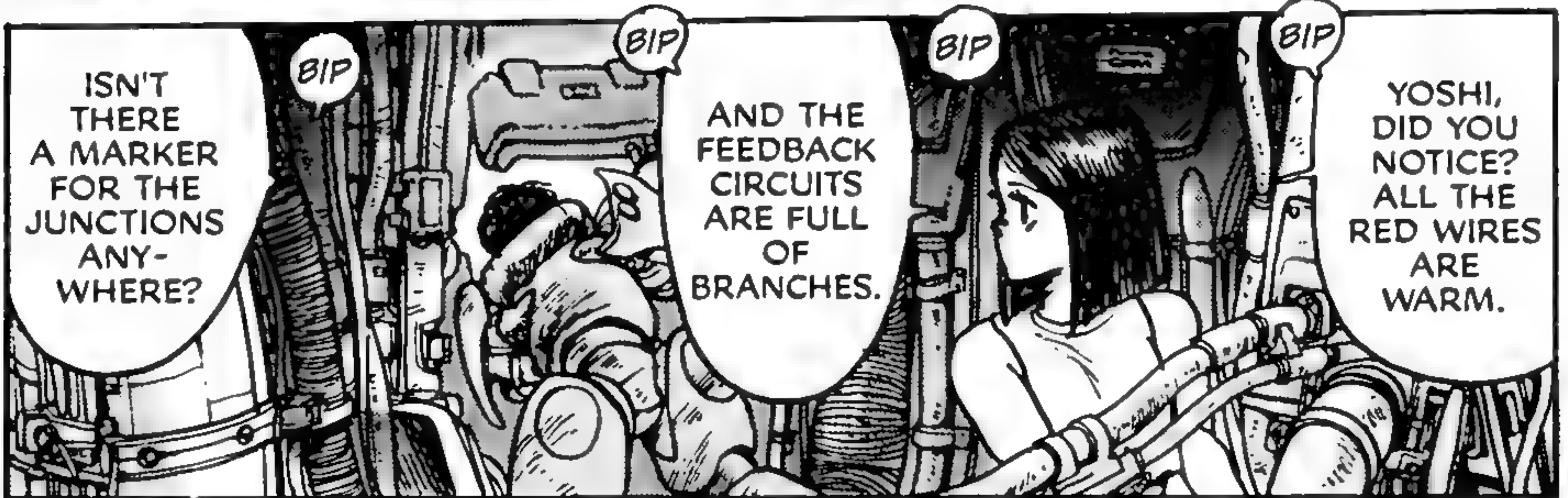




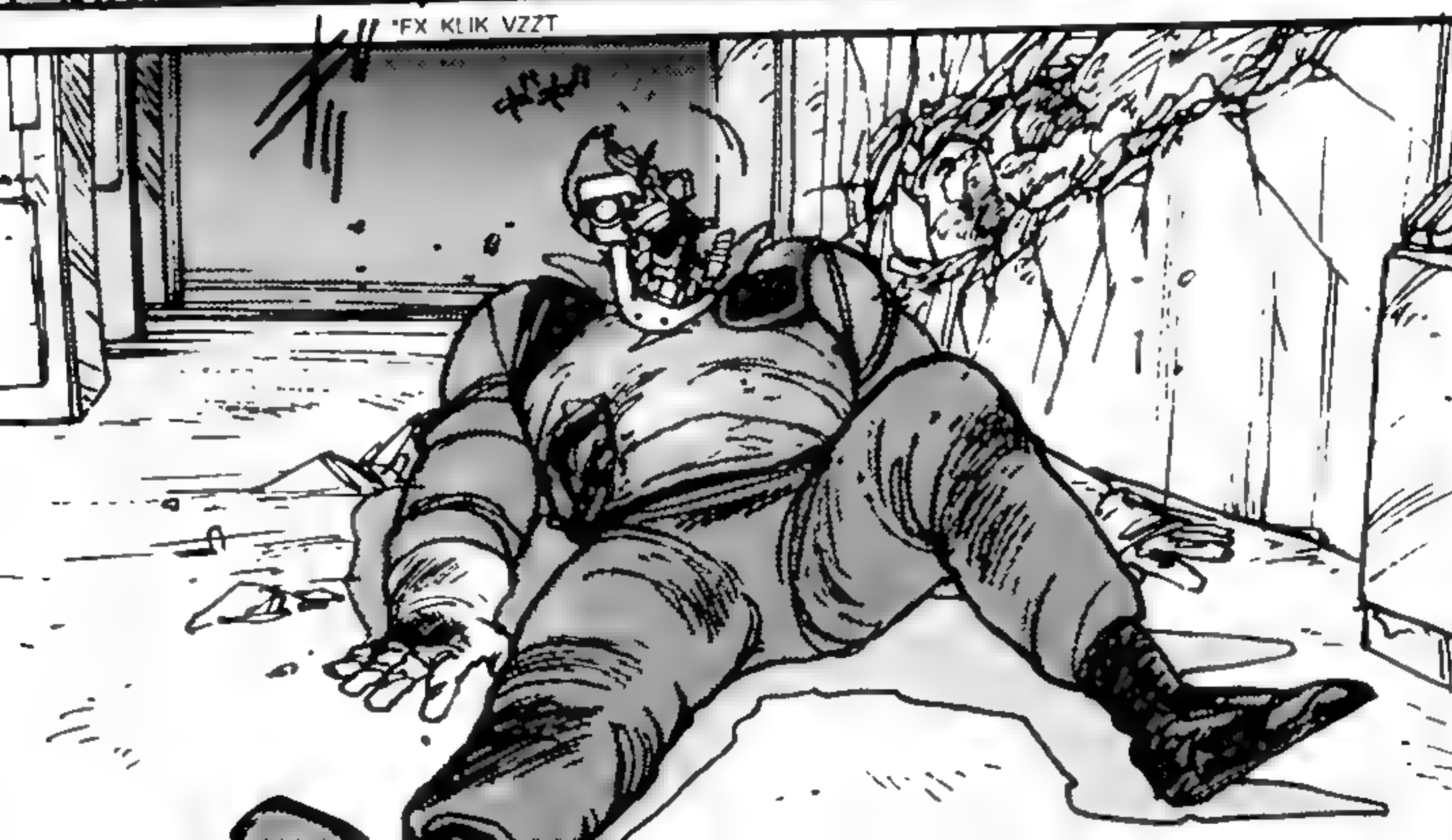
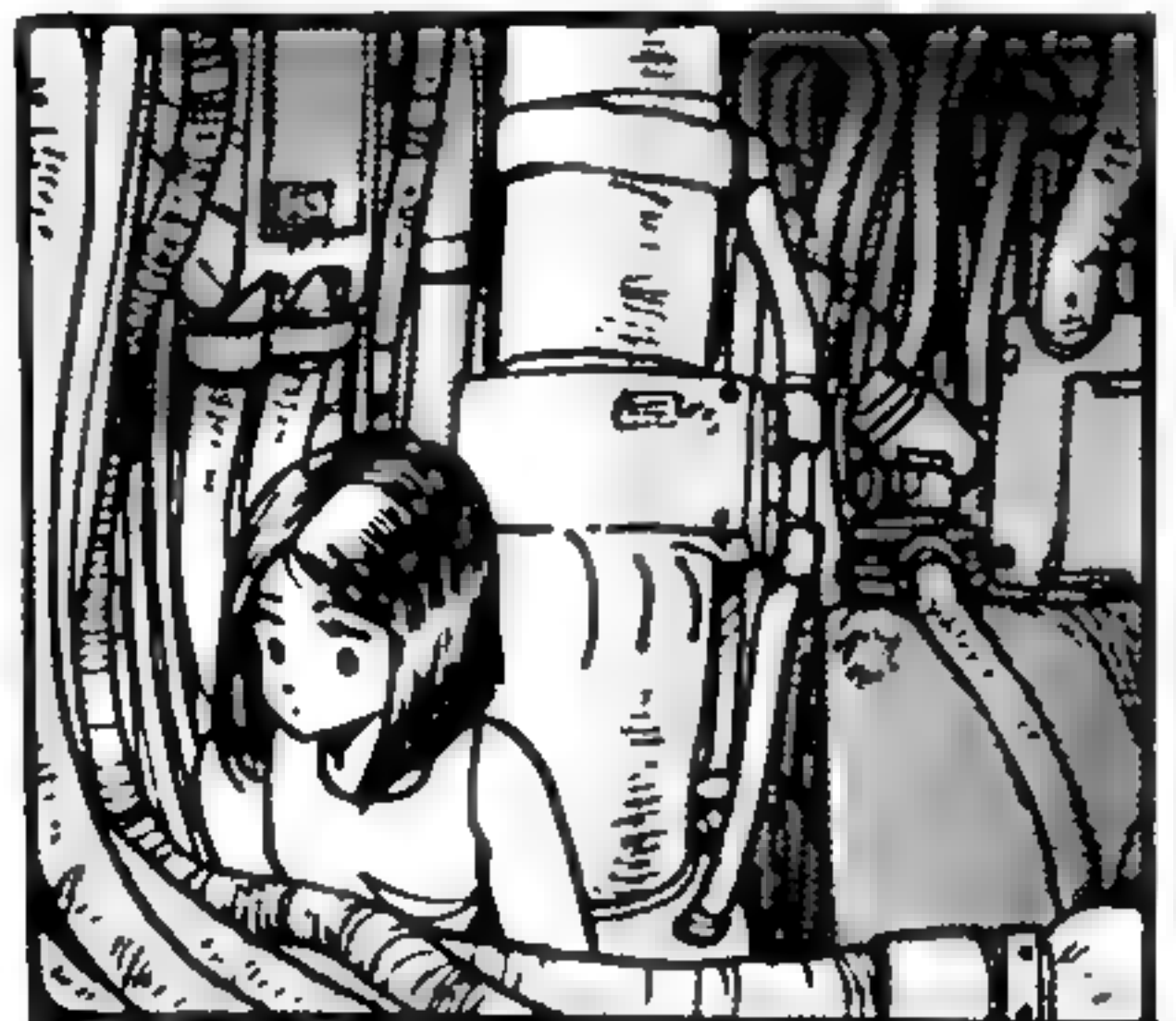
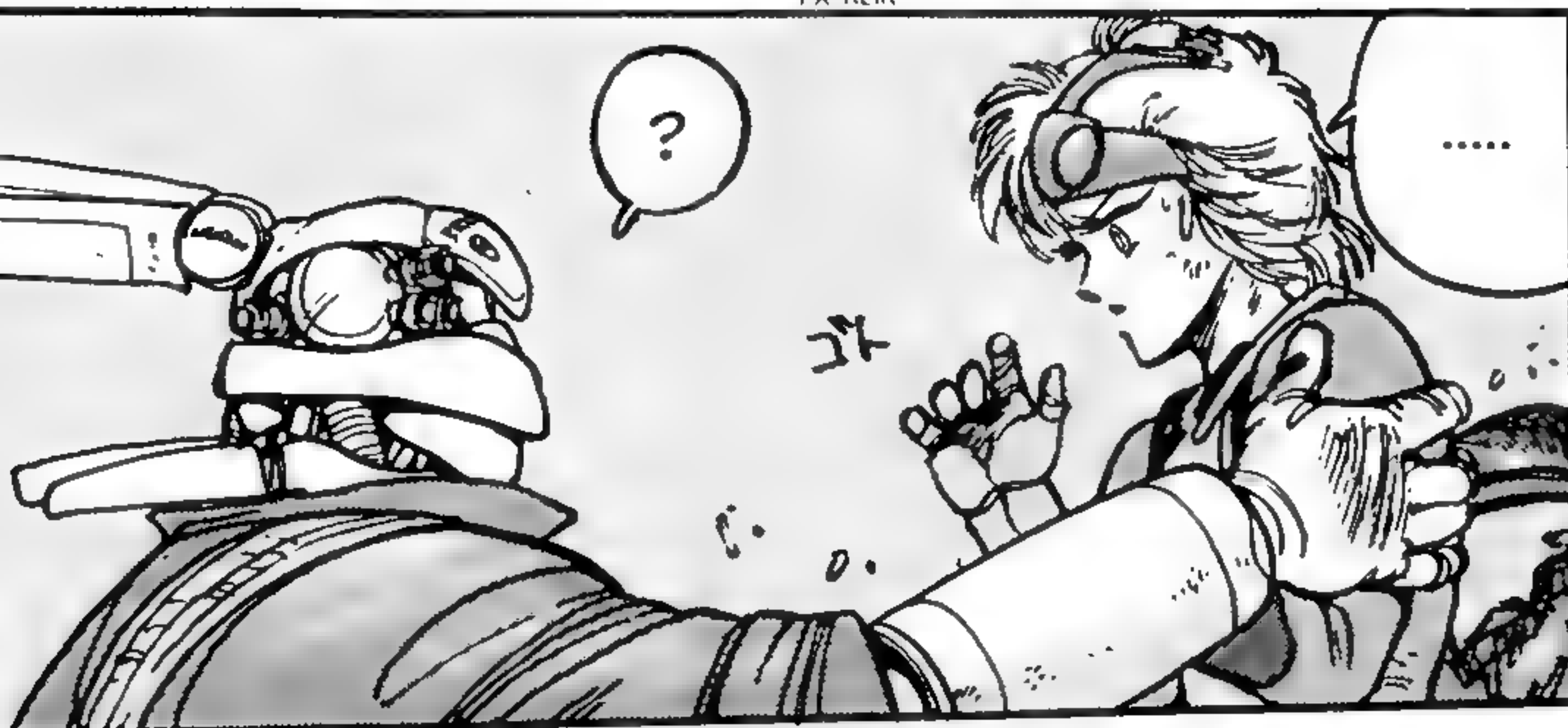




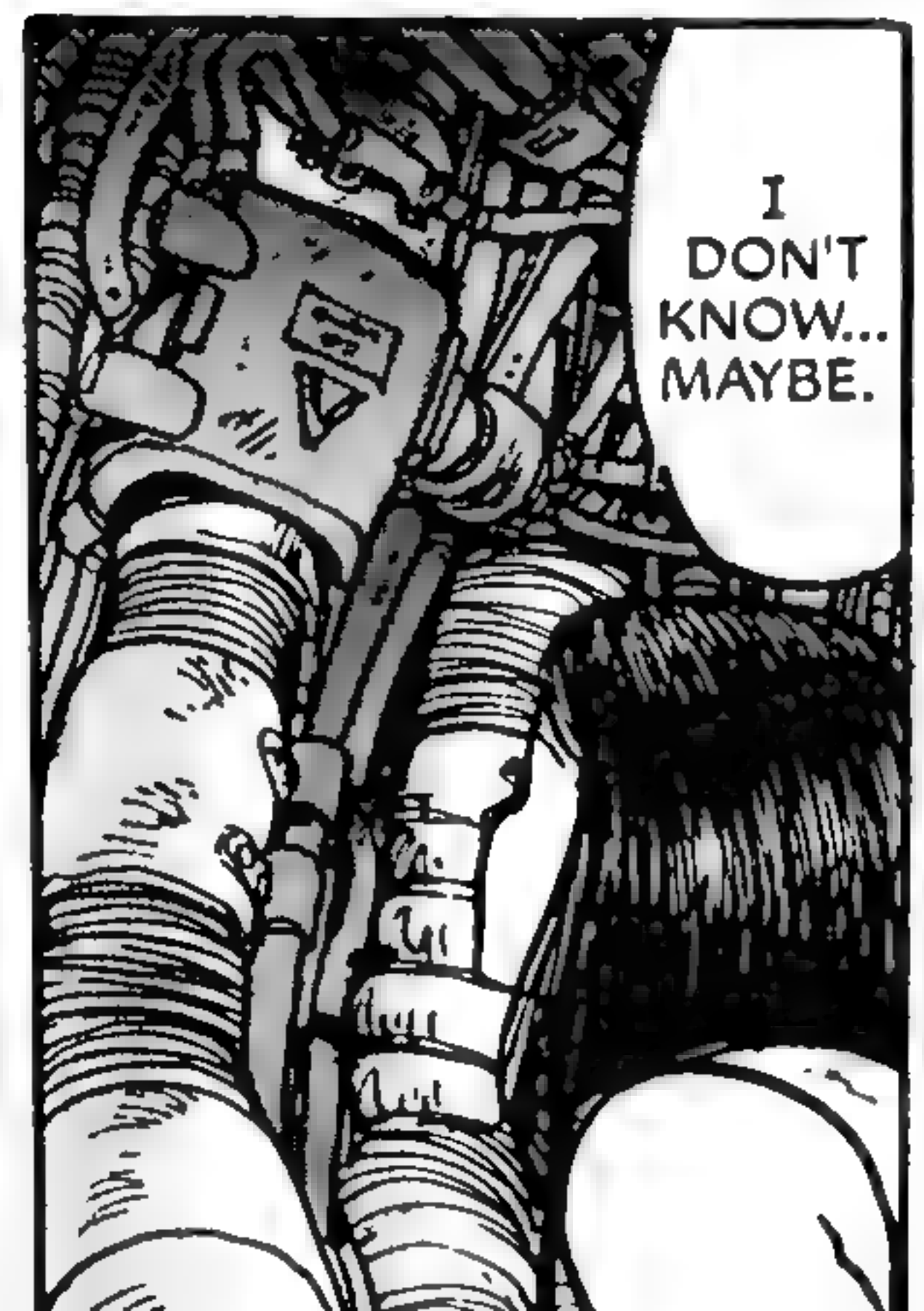
\*FX KRNC



\*FX KLIK



\*FX KLIK VZZT







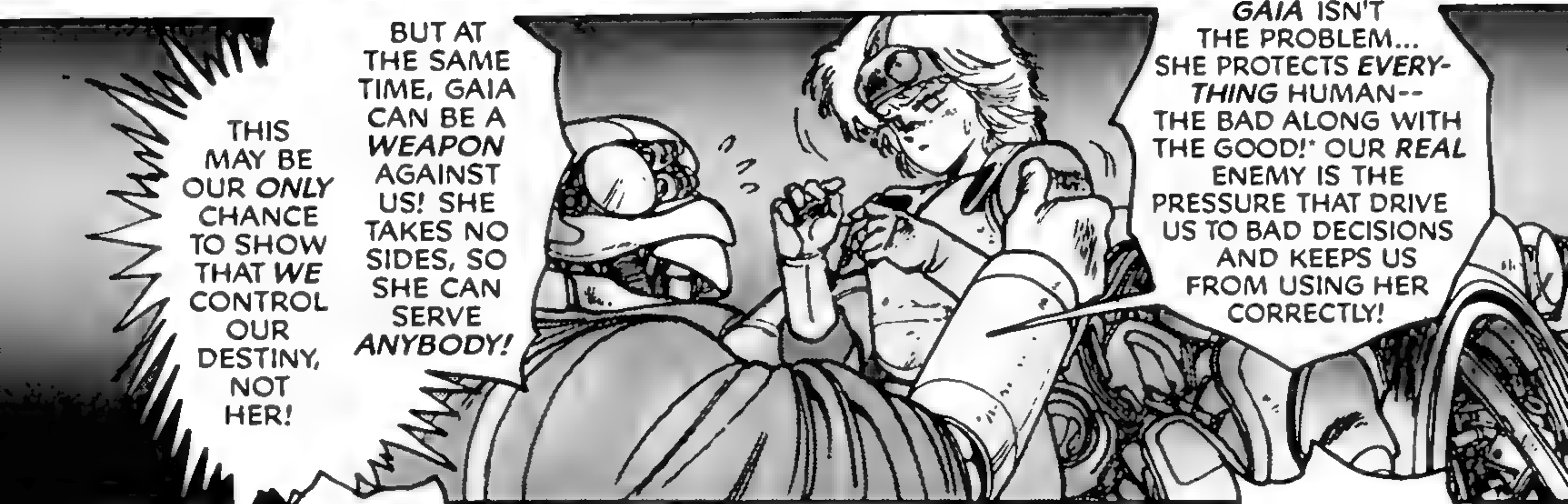
DEUNAN!  
LISTEN  
TO ME!!

I CAN'T  
STAND IT!  
WE'RE JUST  
KILLERS!!

WHERE  
ARE WE?  
THIS  
ISN'T  
A SWAT  
ASSAULT!!



HOW... HOW  
DID WE GET  
ALL THIS  
TRAINING? ARE  
WE STILL IN  
BADSIDE?



THIS  
MAY BE  
OUR ONLY  
CHANCE  
TO SHOW  
THAT WE  
CONTROL  
OUR  
DESTINY,  
NOT  
HER!

BUT AT  
THE SAME  
TIME, GAIA  
CAN BE A  
WEAPON  
AGAINST  
US! SHE  
TAKES NO  
SIDES, SO  
SHE CAN  
SERVE  
ANYBODY!

GAIA ISN'T  
THE PROBLEM...  
SHE PROTECTS EVERY-  
THING HUMAN--  
THE BAD ALONG WITH  
THE GOOD!\* OUR REAL  
ENEMY IS THE  
PRESSURE THAT DRIVE  
US TO BAD DECISIONS  
AND KEEPS US  
FROM USING HER  
CORRECTLY!

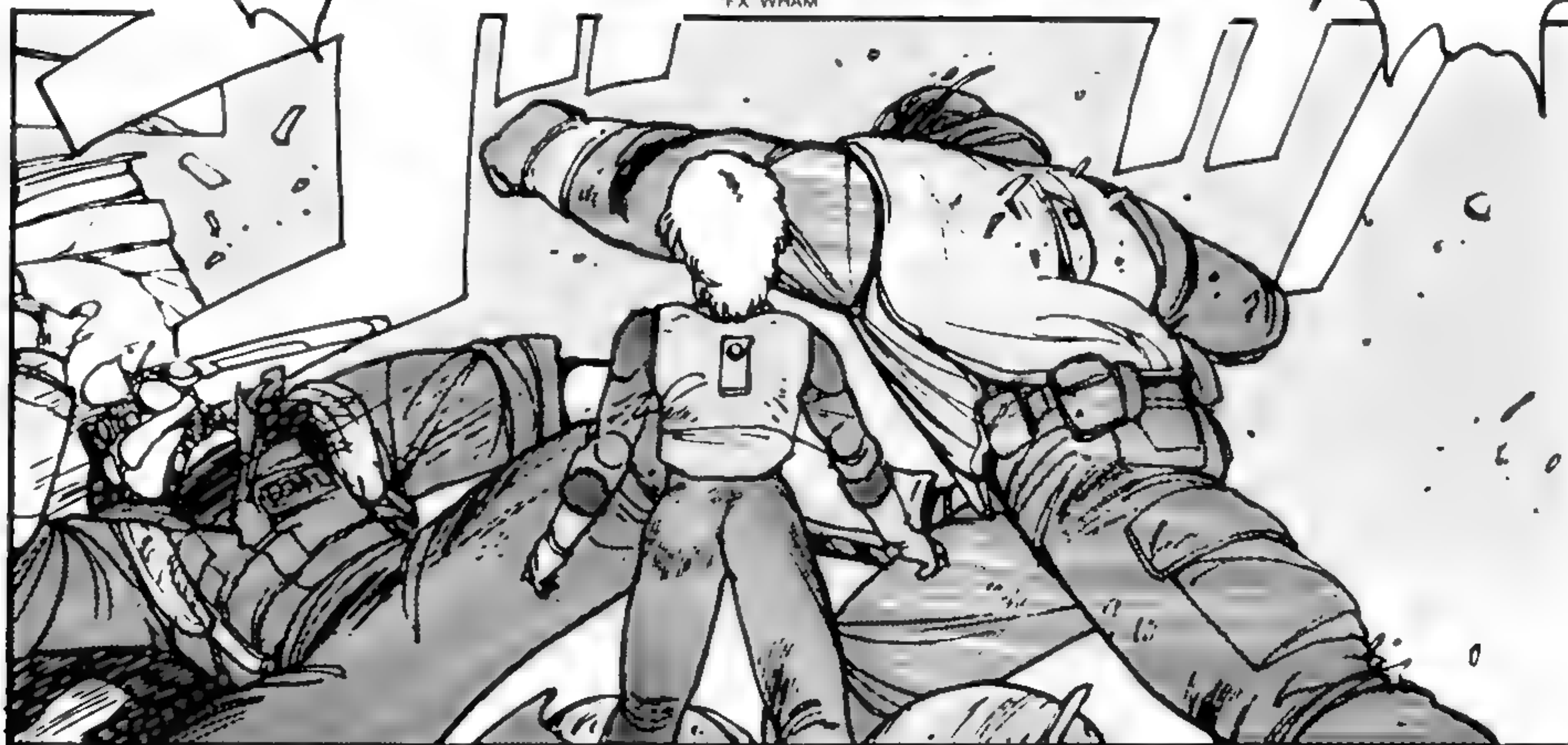
\*FX GISHI GISHI



AND IT ALL  
DEPENDS ON  
THE JUDGMENT  
OF THE POINT  
MAN! YOUR  
JUDGMENT!!

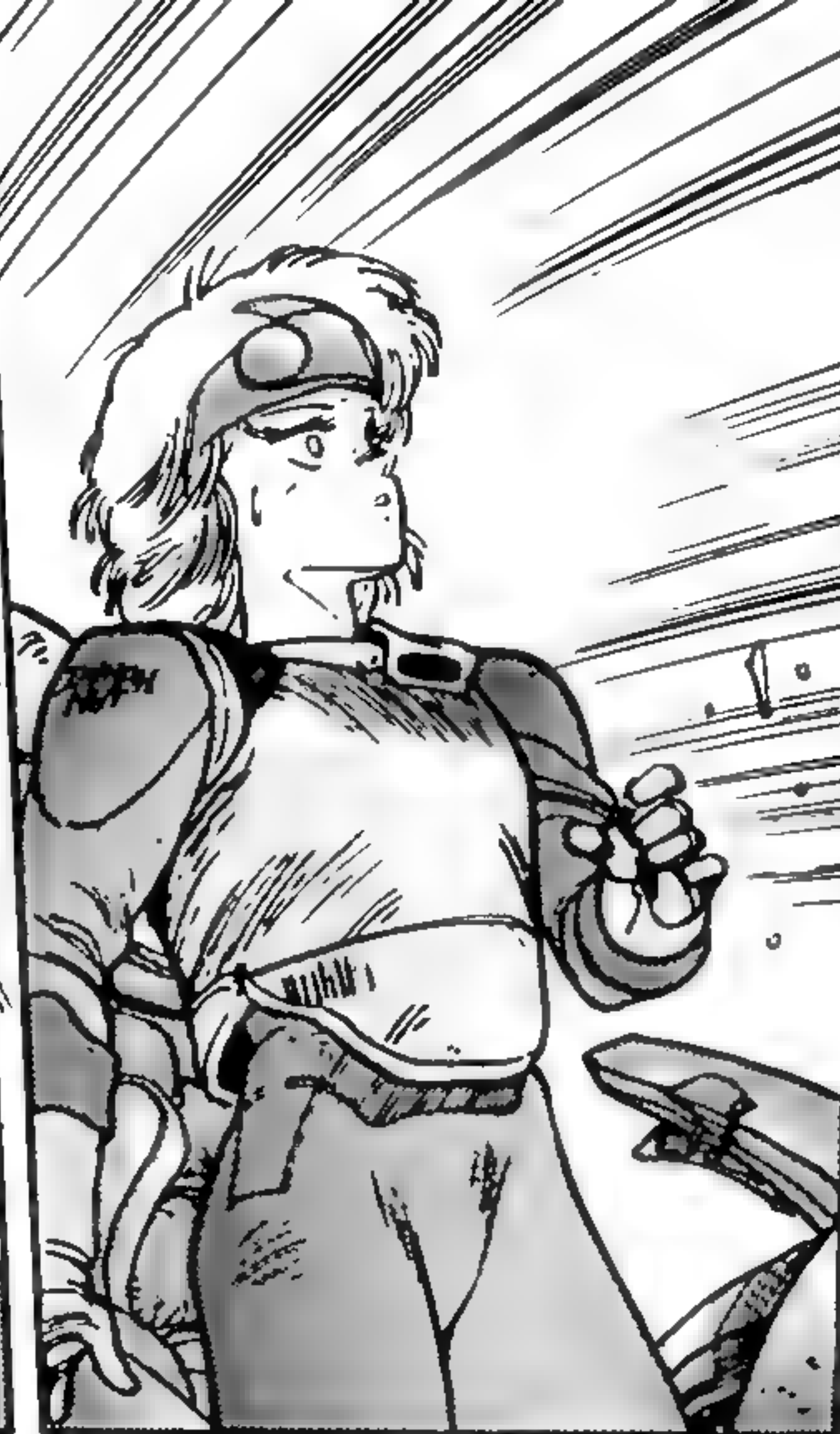
THERE'S  
NEVER  
BEEN  
A MORE  
IMPORTANT  
SWAT  
ASSAULT!

\*FX WHAM



\*From Gaia's perspective Deunan and crew are terrorists, so under Olympian law (no civil liberties for terrorists), they don't fall into a protected category.

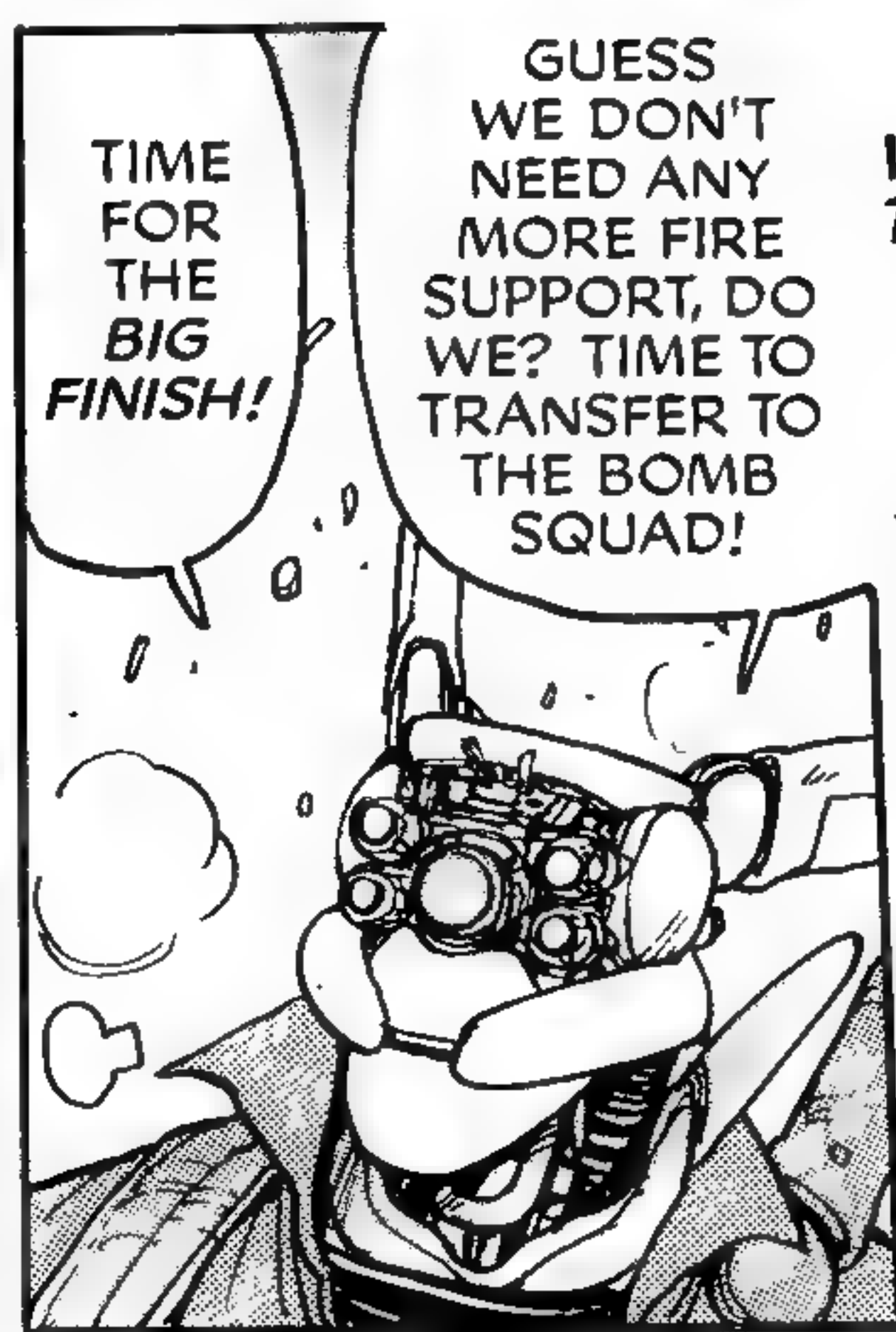
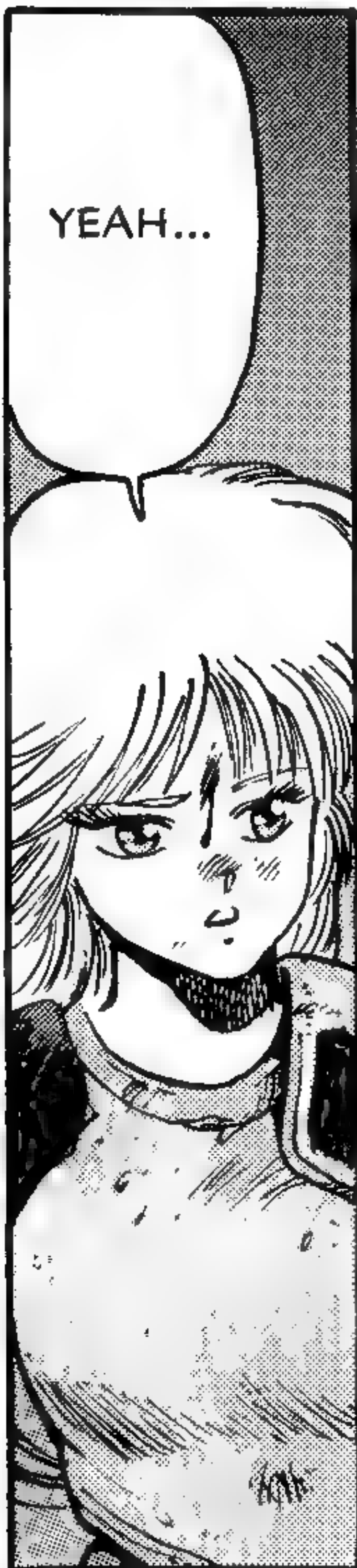








\*FX. SKRASSH



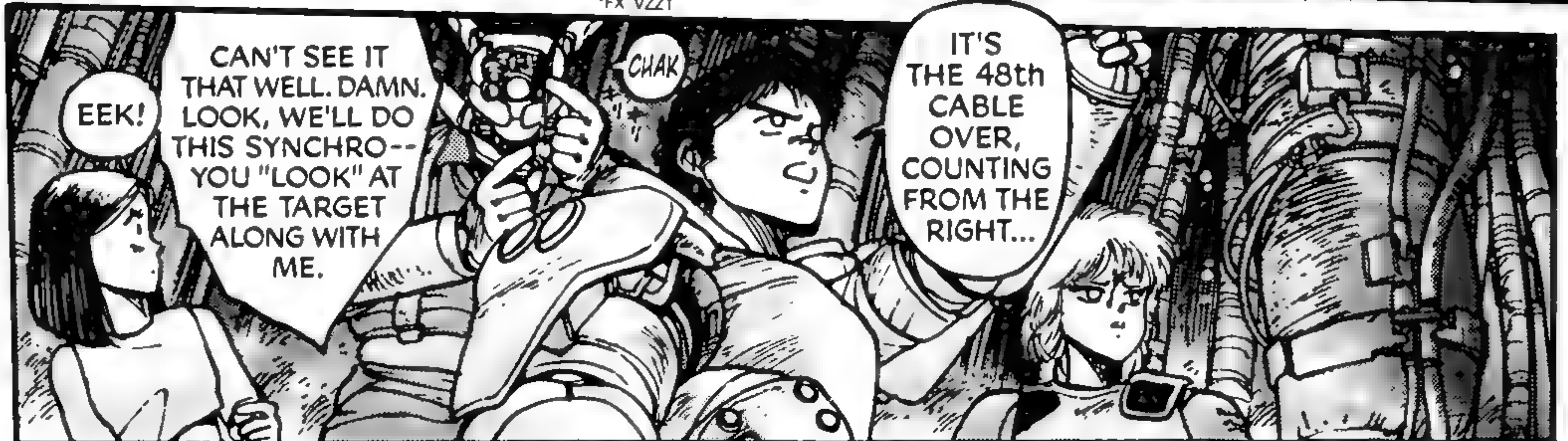




UP  
HERE!

HAVE  
YOU  
FOUND THE  
SUBSYSTEM  
RUNNING  
THE  
HELIO-  
STATS?

\*FX VZZT

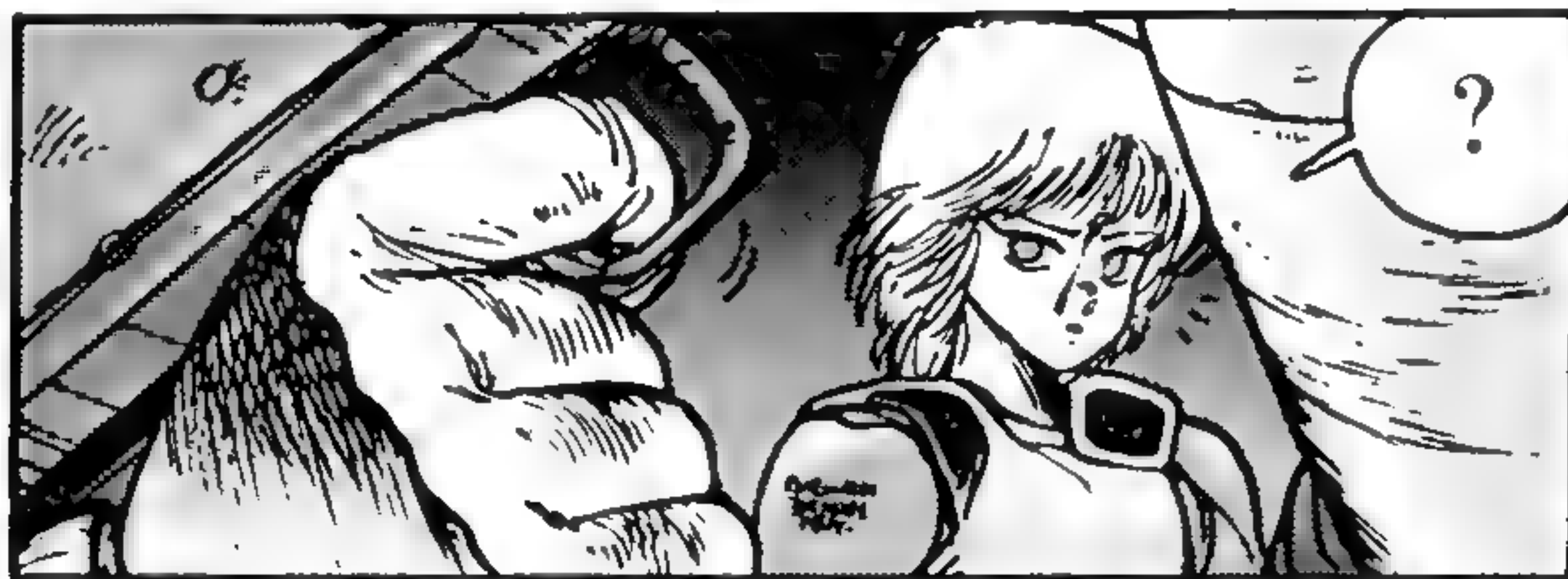


EEEK!

CAN'T SEE IT  
THAT WELL. DAMN.  
LOOK, WE'LL DO  
THIS SYNCHRO--  
YOU "LOOK" AT  
THE TARGET  
ALONG WITH  
ME.

CHAK

IT'S  
THE 48th  
CABLE  
OVER,  
COUNTING  
FROM THE  
RIGHT...



?

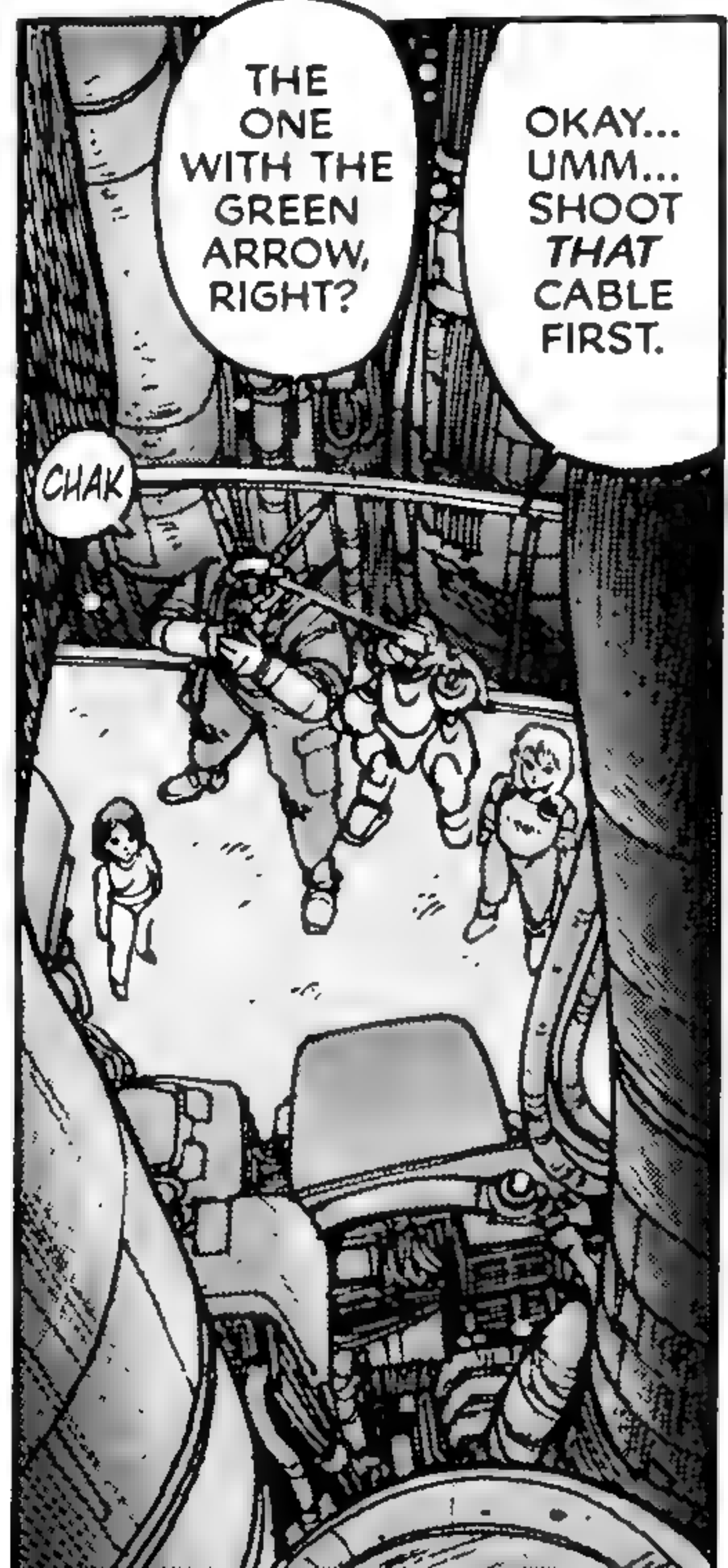
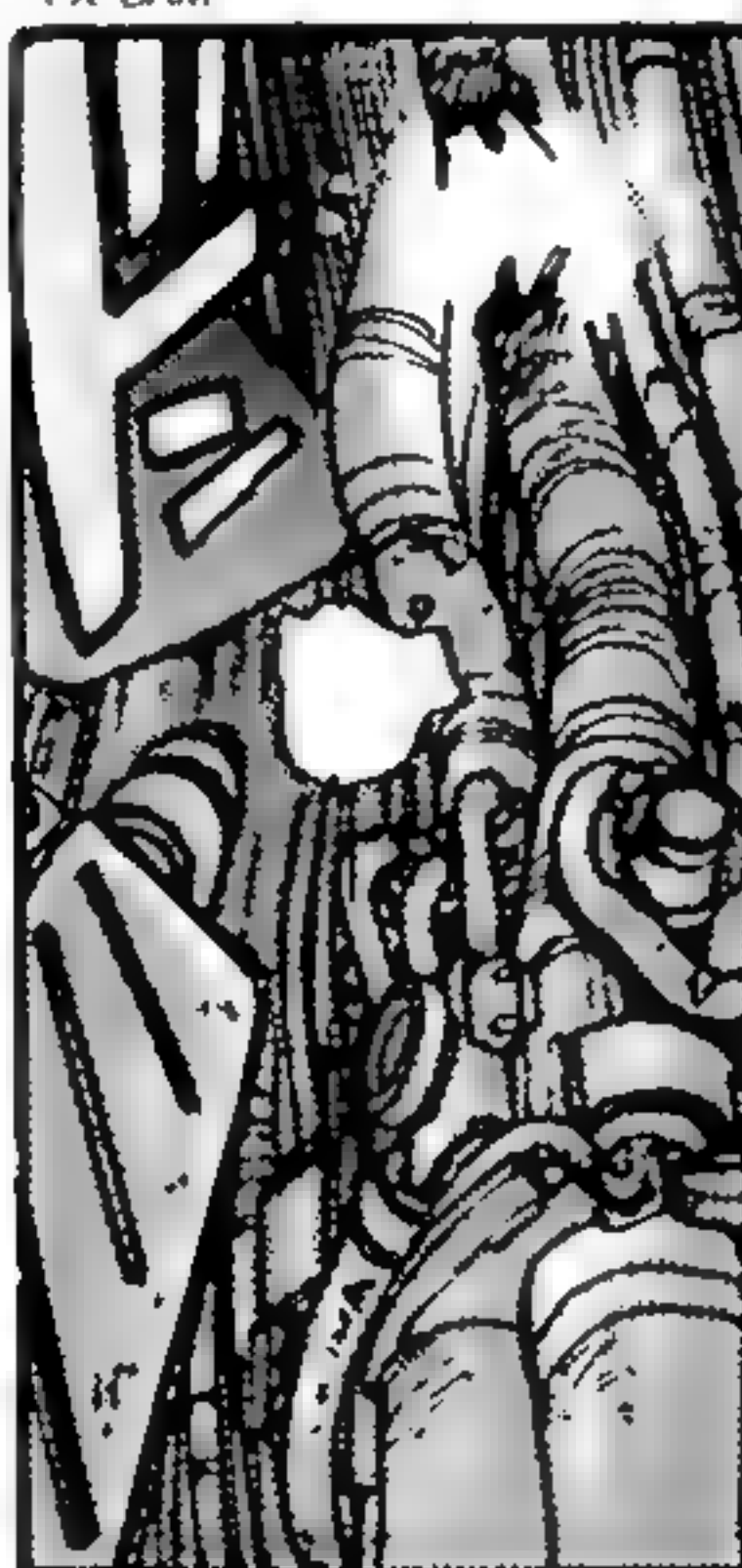
\*FX BAM



THAT  
LAST  
FIGHT...MY  
FINGERS  
ARE  
GOING  
NUMB.

OKAY--  
NEXT?

DEUNAN,  
YOU  
BETTER  
GET  
A GUN  
READY.



THE  
ONE  
WITH THE  
GREEN  
ARROW,  
RIGHT?

OKAY...  
UMM...  
SHOOT  
THAT  
CABLE  
FIRST.

CHAK



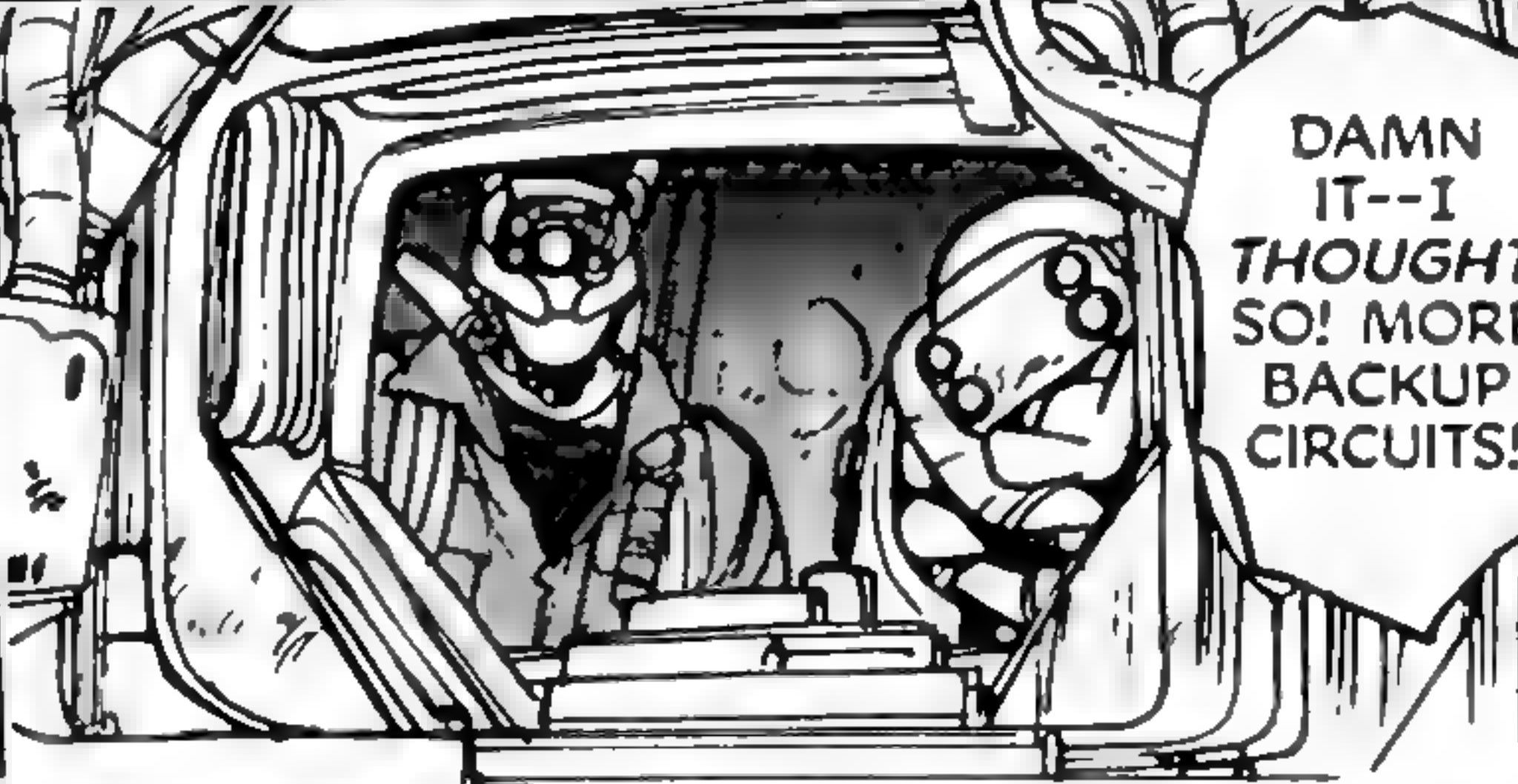
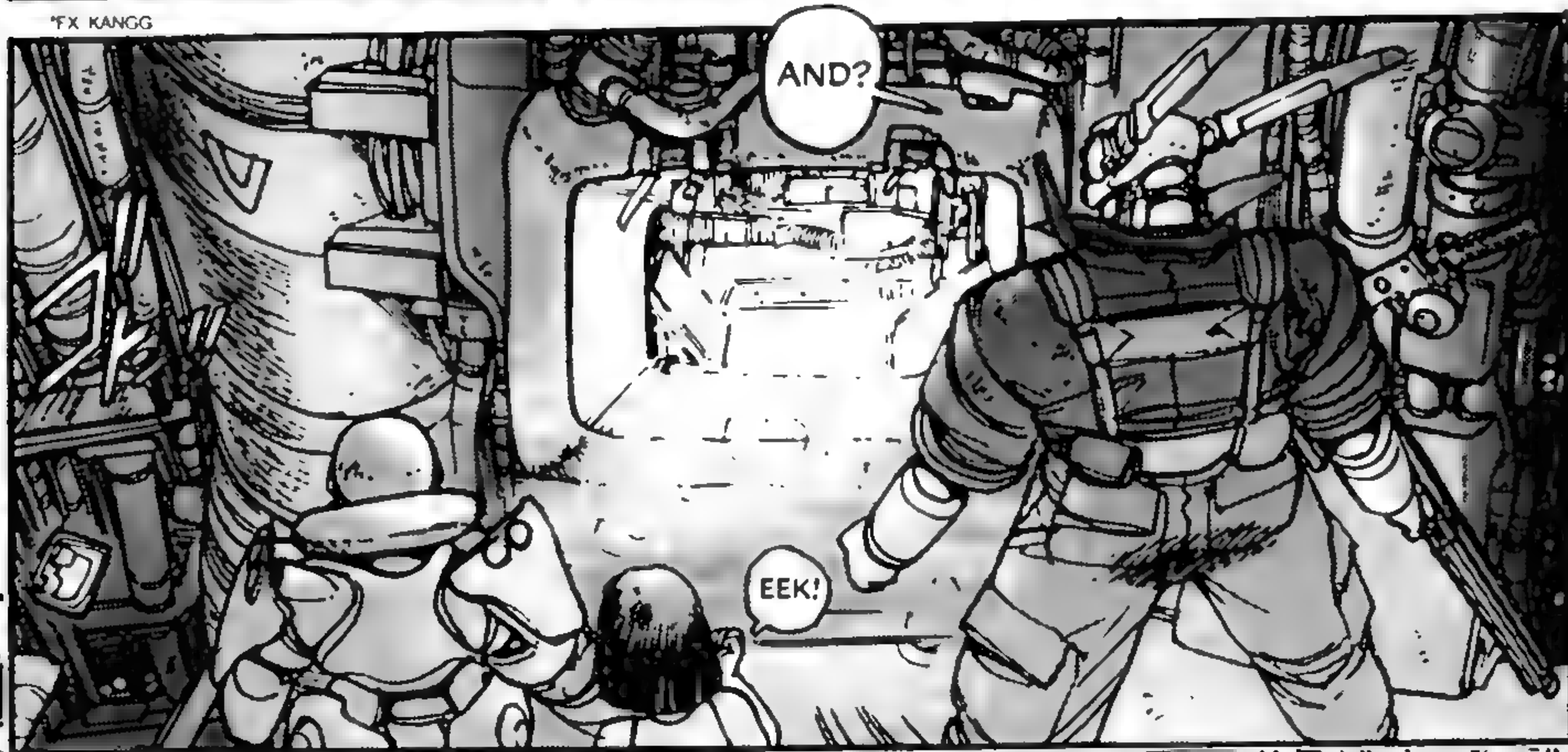


BUT WHAT? SHOOT THEM. NOW!

THE REGULAR HELIOSTAT CONTROL LINE AND THE EMERGENCY CIRCUIT GAIA'S NOW USING BOTH RUN OVER THERE, BUT--

JUST WAIT!

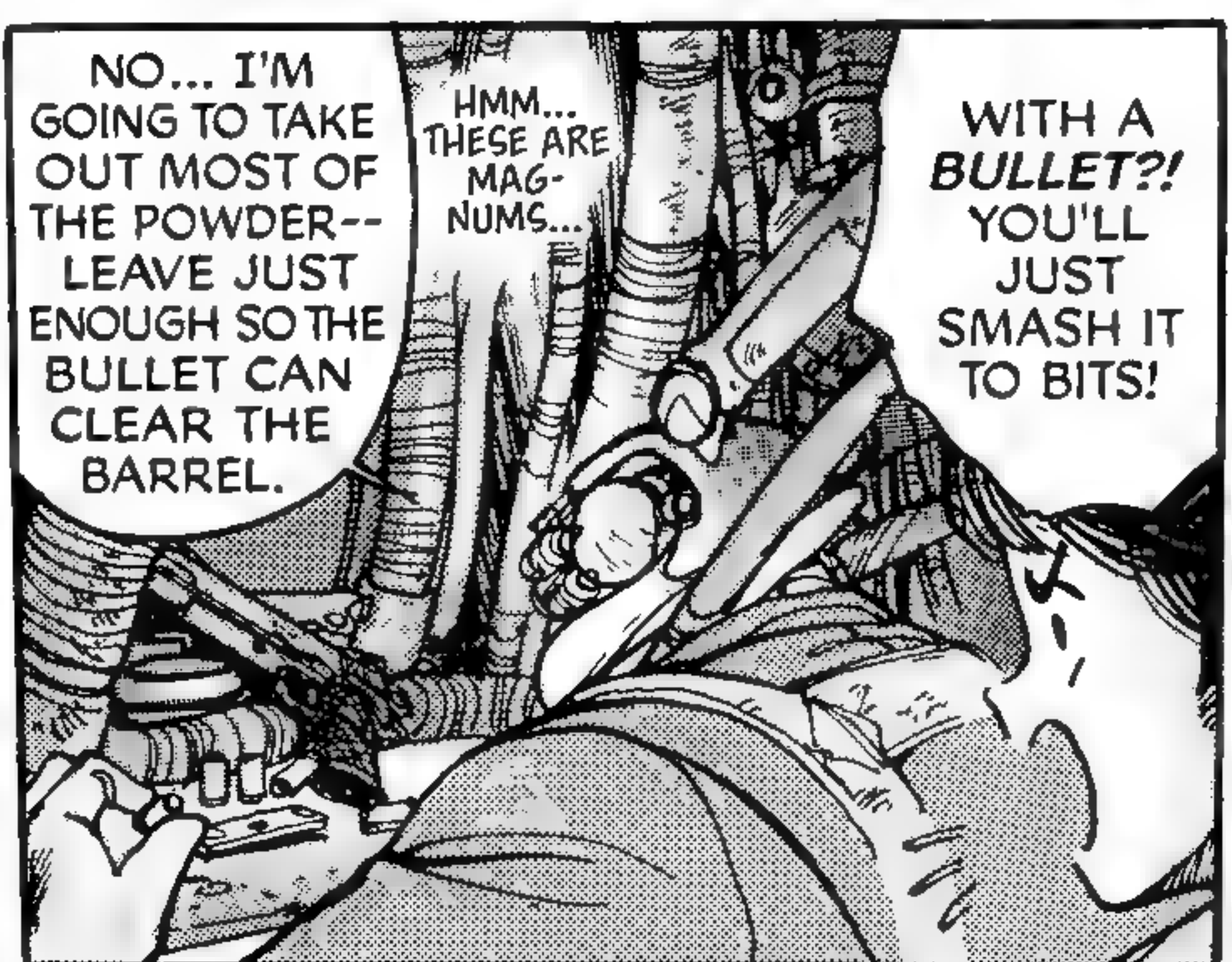
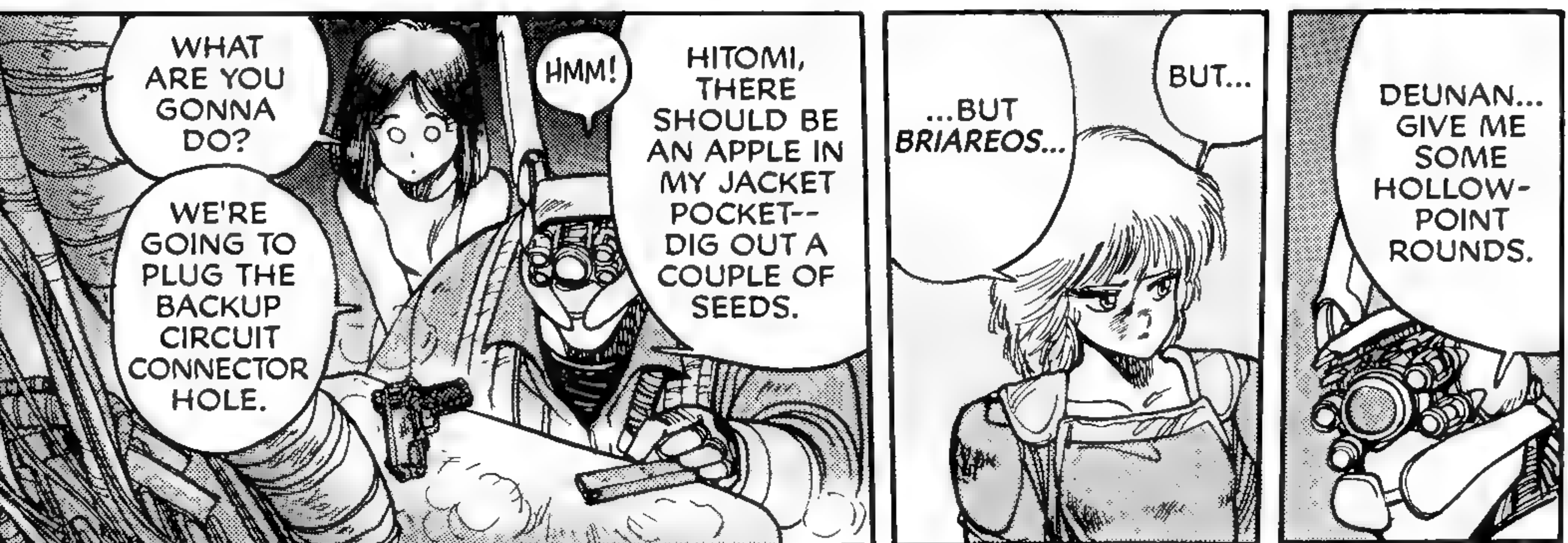
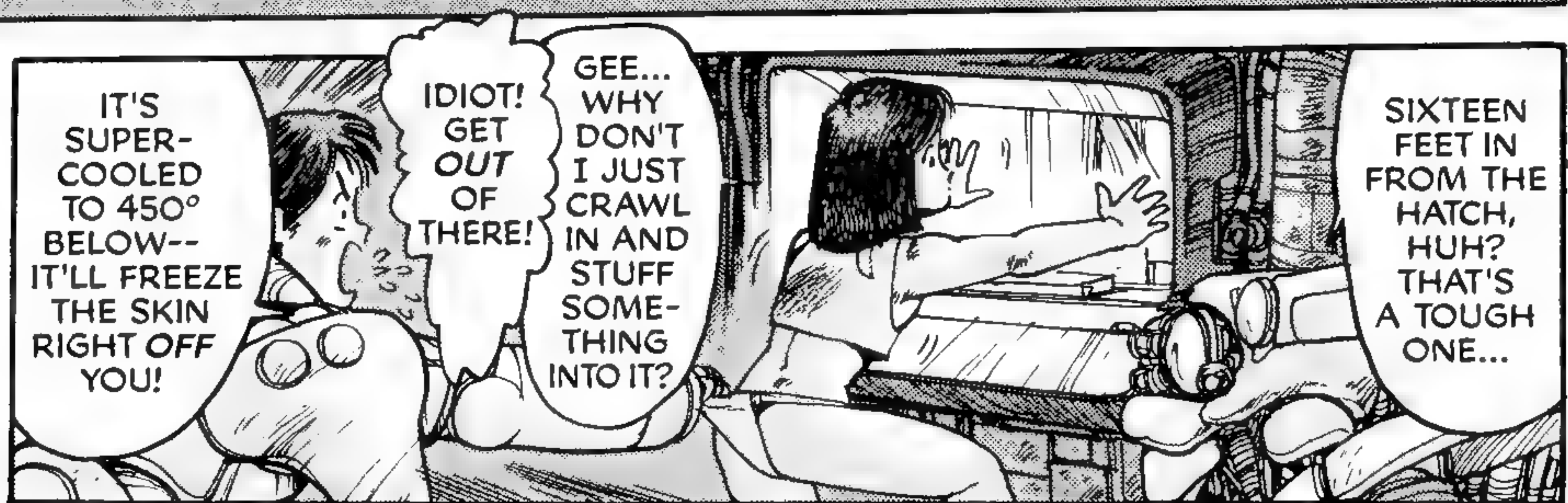
FX KANGG



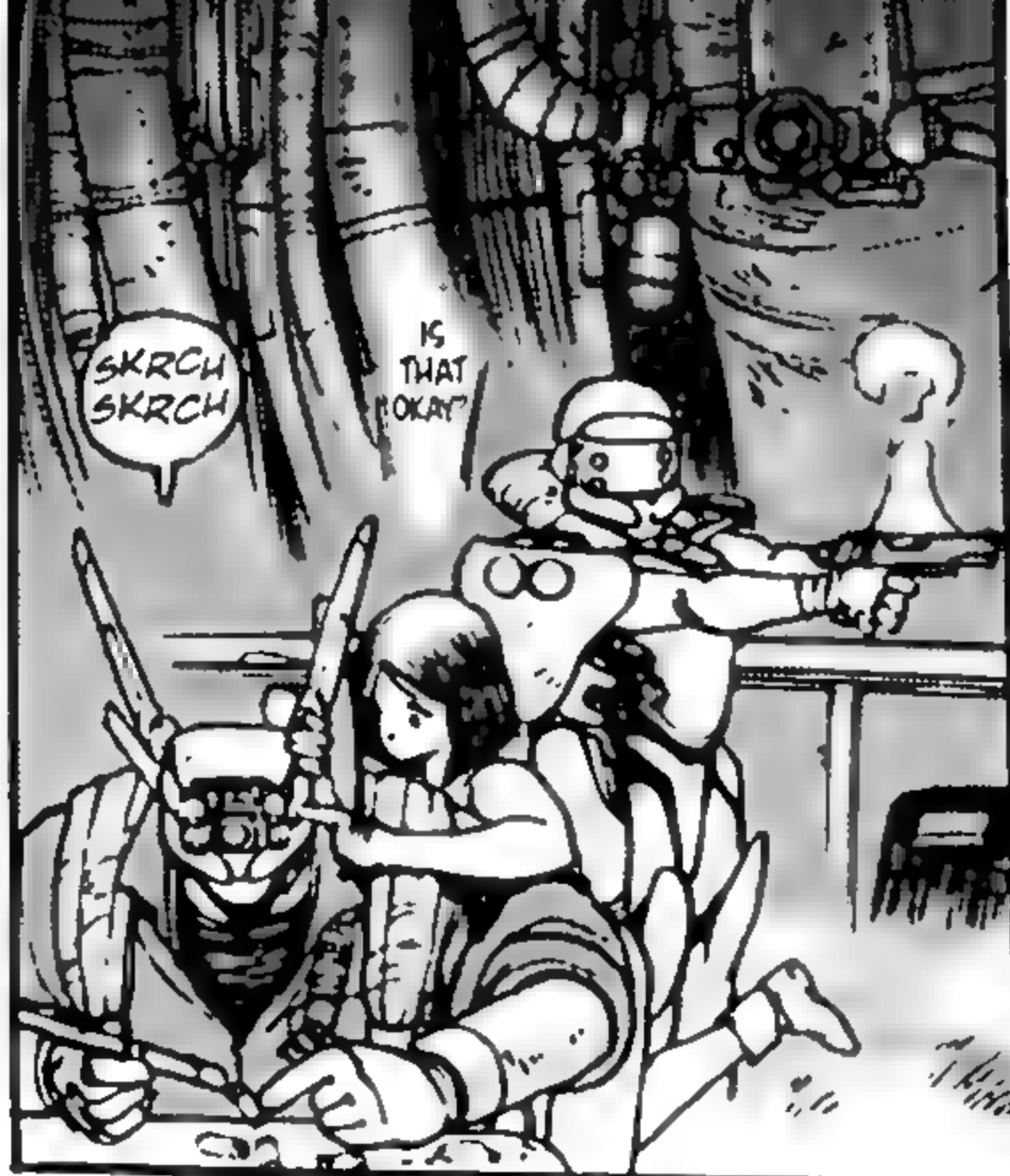
IF WE JUST SMASH IT, I THINK THAT WOULD CAUSE GAIA TO LOCK THE HELIOSTATS INTO PLACE VIA THE EMERGENCY BYPASS AND JUST SHUT DOWN THE CIRCUIT HERE. SHE'D GIVE THE NEW ROUTINGS PRIORITY OVER THE REGULAR CIRCUITS, SEE?

DO WE HAVE TO BUST THAT MIDDLE ONE BEFORE TAKING OUT THE EMERGENCY CIRCUIT?

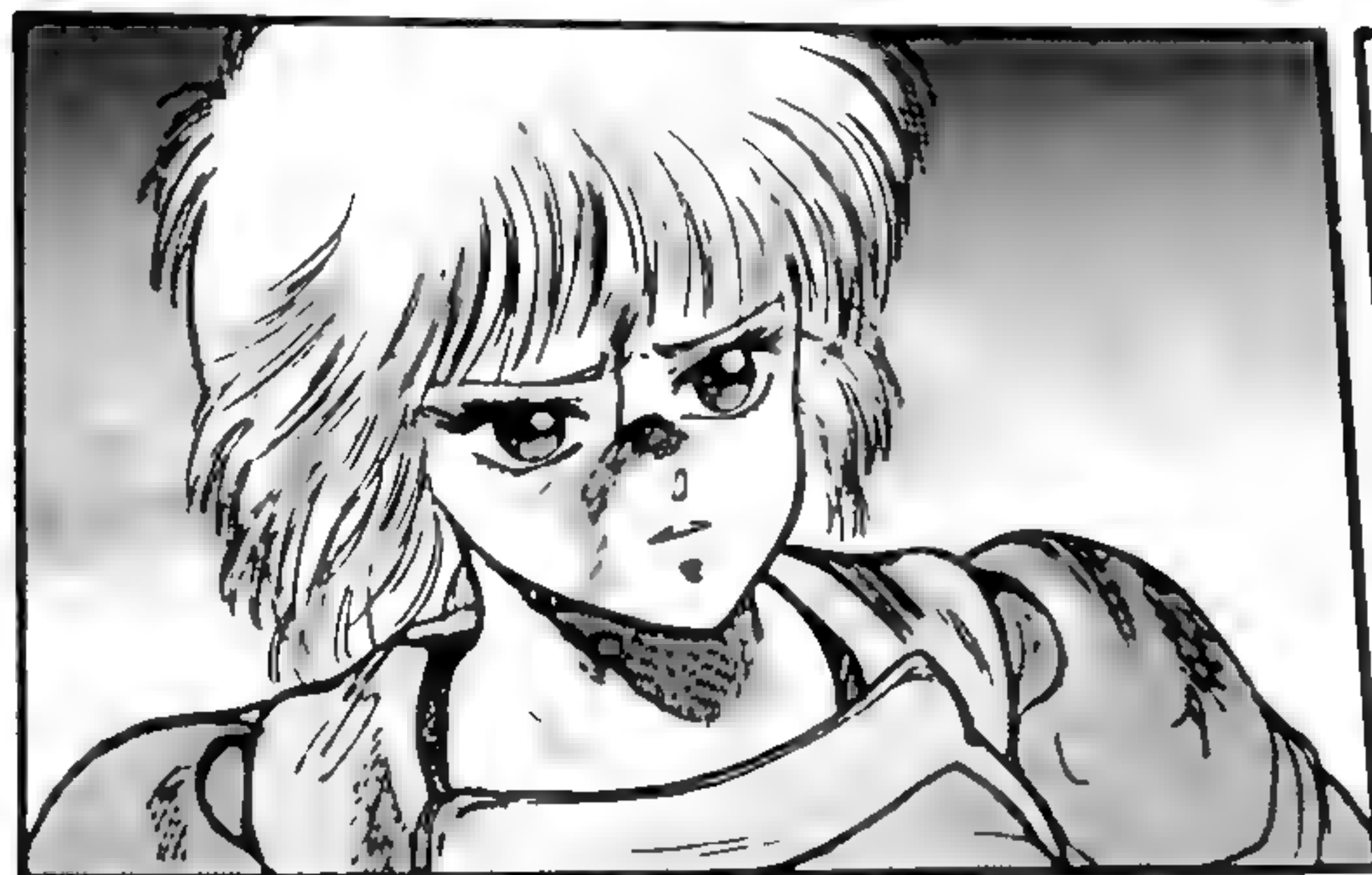
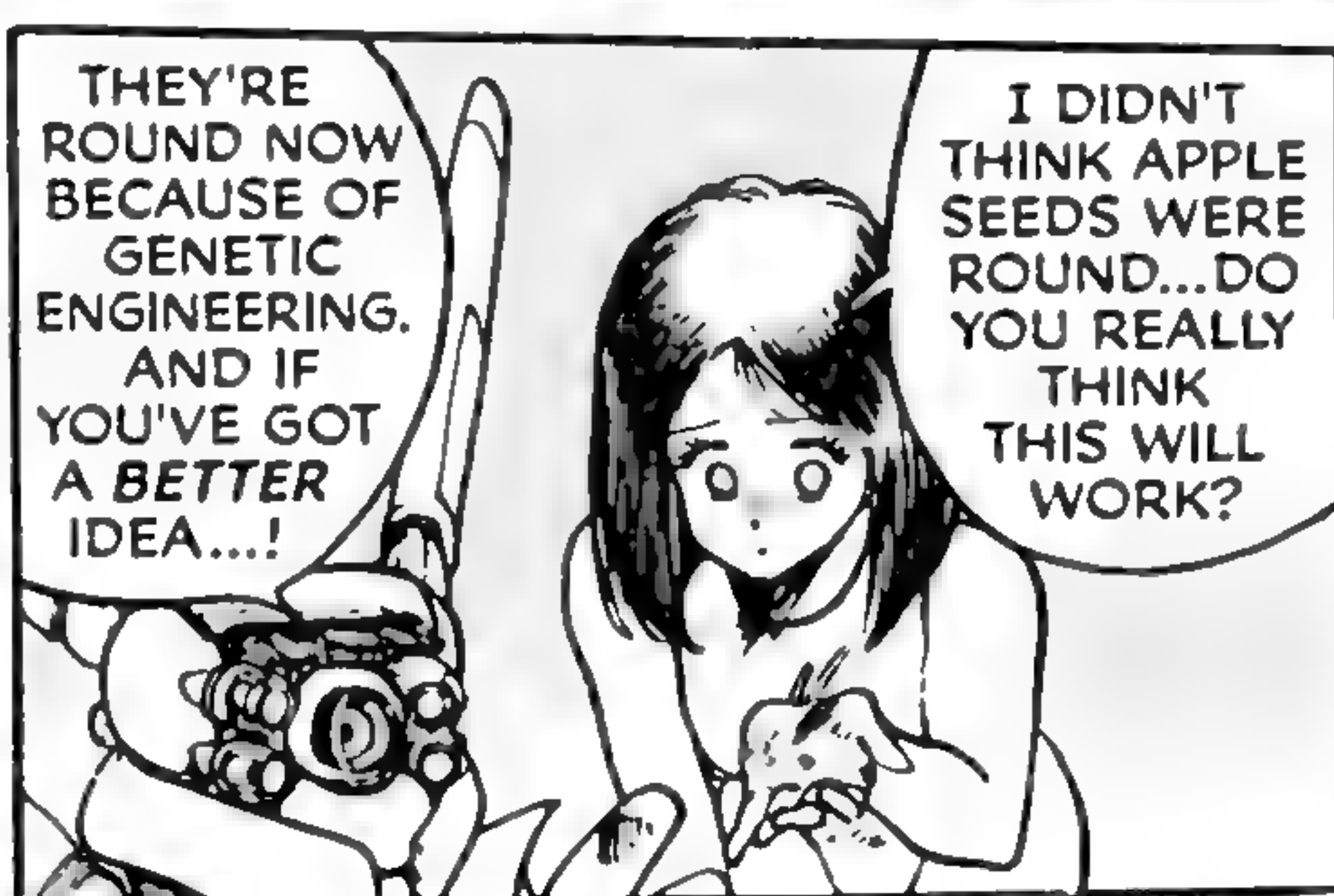








\*FX BAM







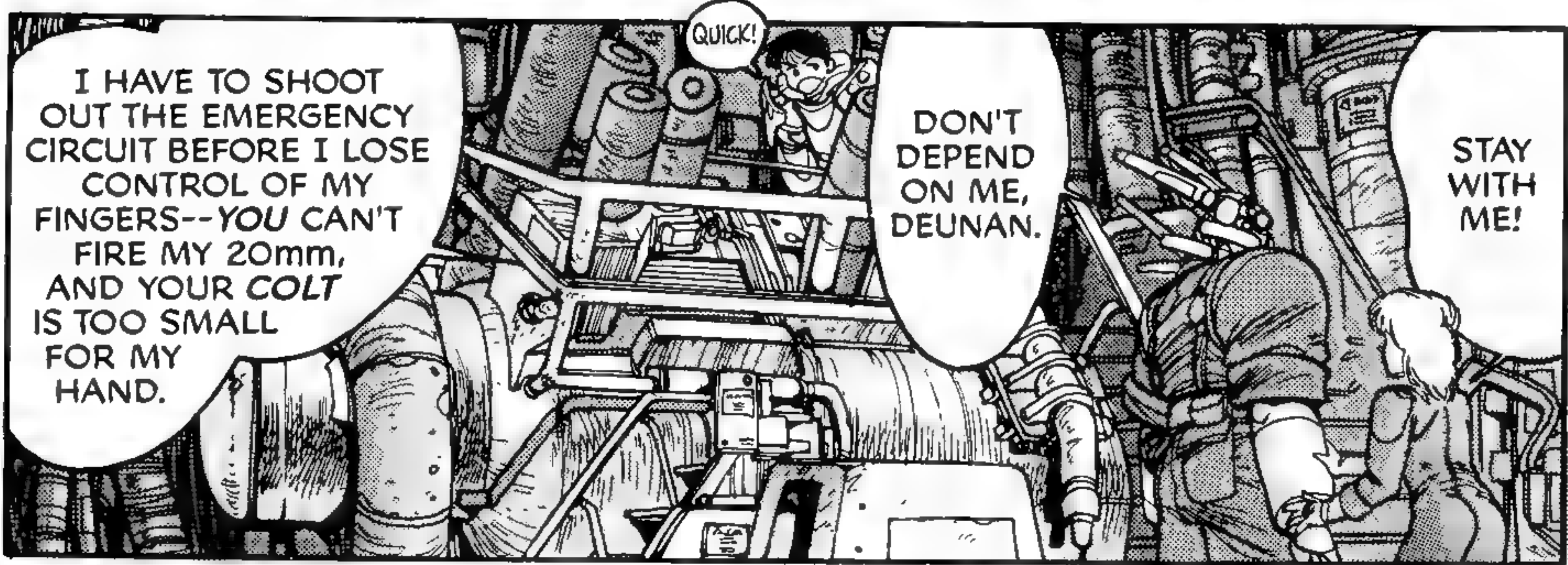
IS GAIA  
REALLY  
WRONG?!

BRIAREOS!  
SHOULD  
WE REALLY  
BE DOING  
THIS?

A SHOT  
THAT  
CHANGES  
HISTORY...  
THERE'S  
BEEN A FEW.  
MAYBE THIS  
IS ONE OF  
THEM...



IF IT  
WAS MY  
CHOICE,  
I'D PULL  
THE  
TRIGGER.

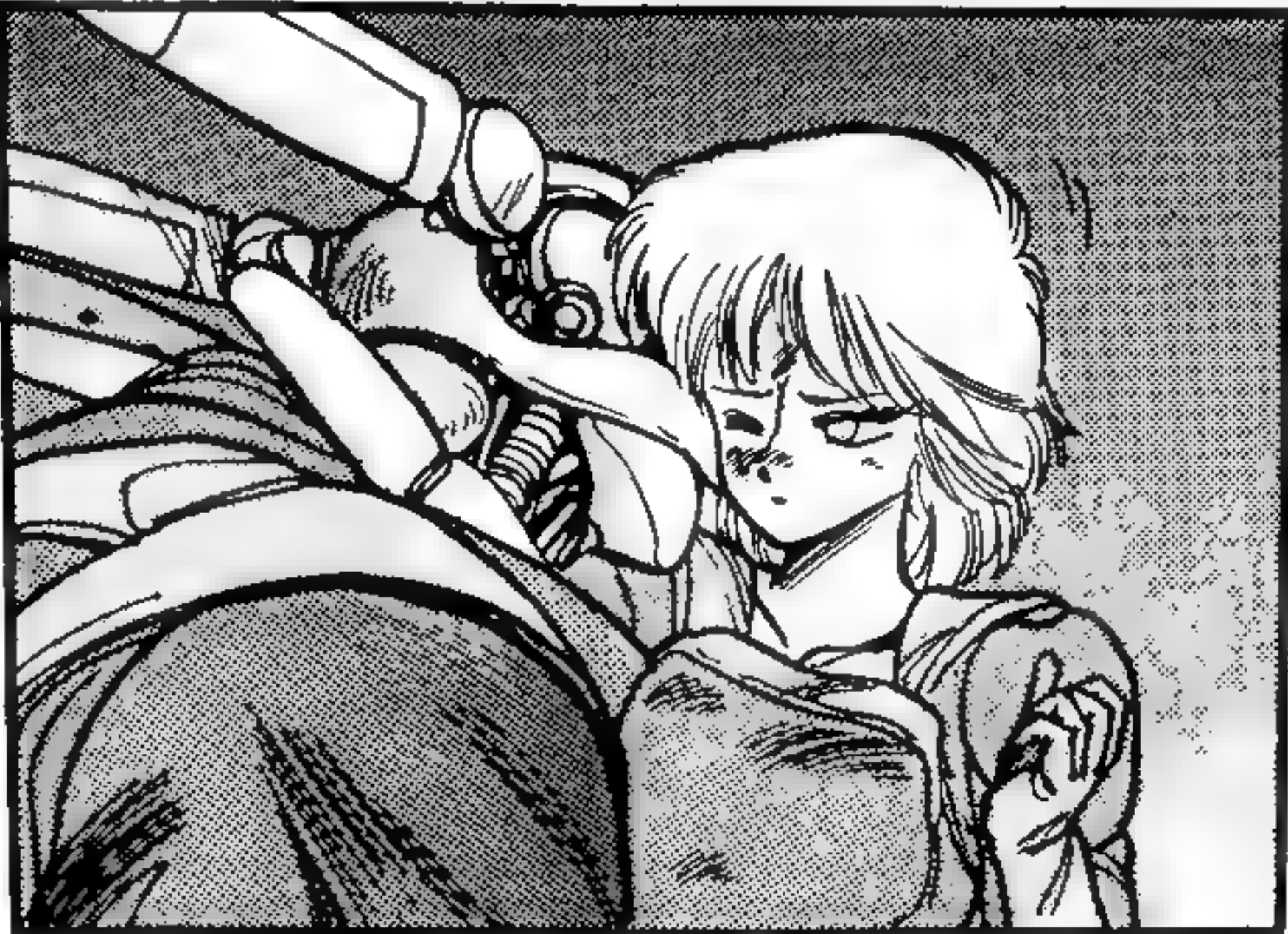
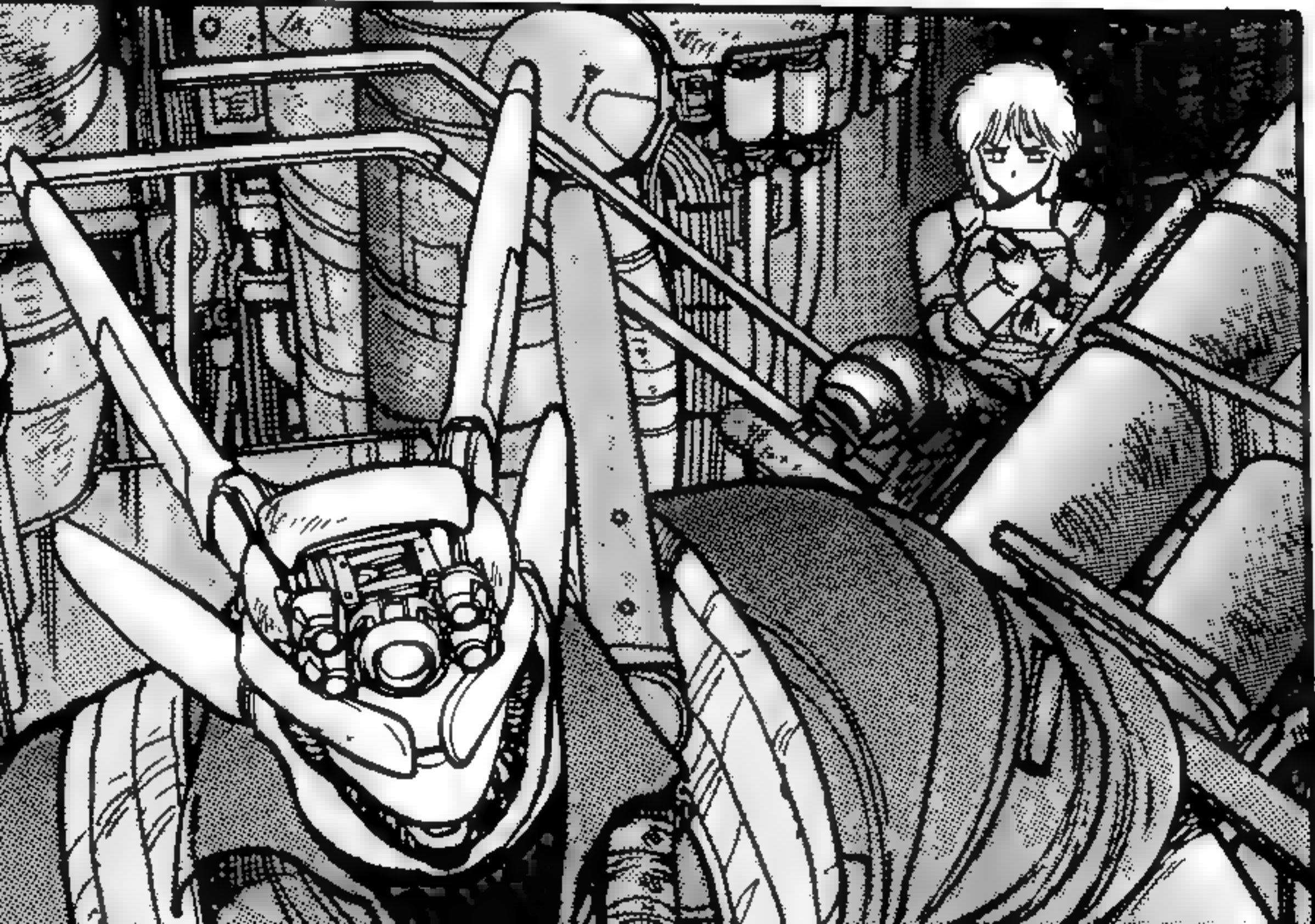


I HAVE TO SHOOT  
OUT THE EMERGENCY  
CIRCUIT BEFORE I LOSE  
CONTROL OF MY  
FINGERS--YOU CAN'T  
FIRE MY 20mm,  
AND YOUR COLT  
IS TOO SMALL  
FOR MY  
HAND.

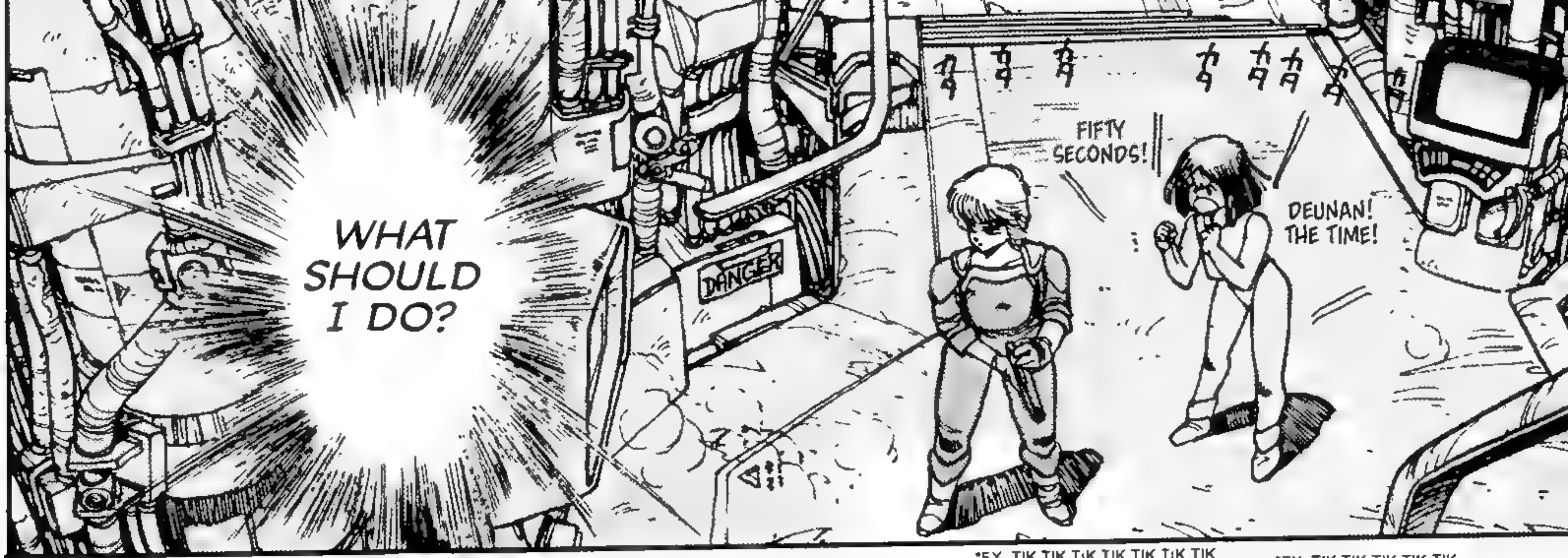
QUICK!

DON'T  
DEPEND  
ON ME,  
DEUNAN.

STAY  
WITH  
ME!







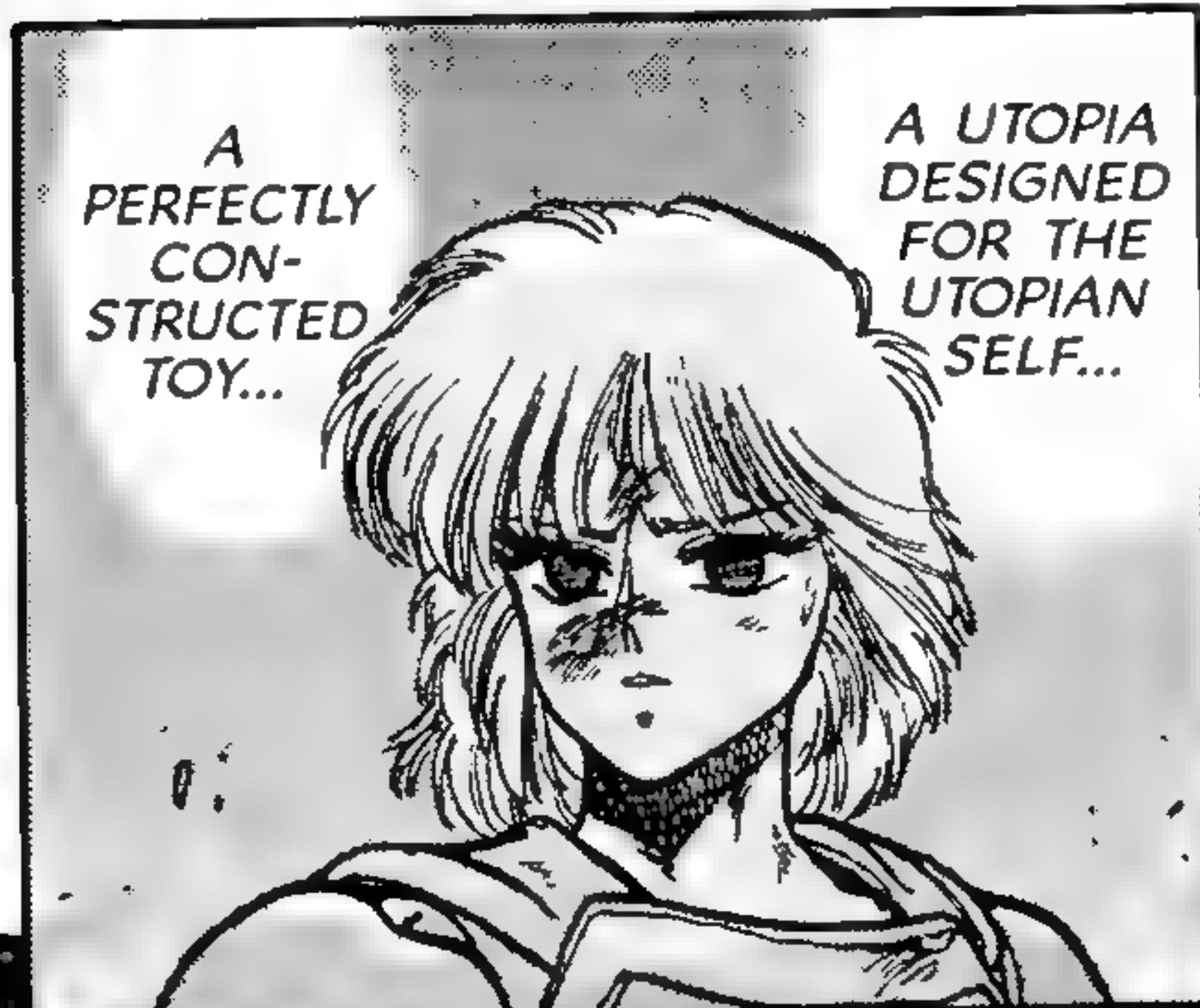
WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO?

FIFTY  
SECONDS!

DEUNAN!  
THE TIME!

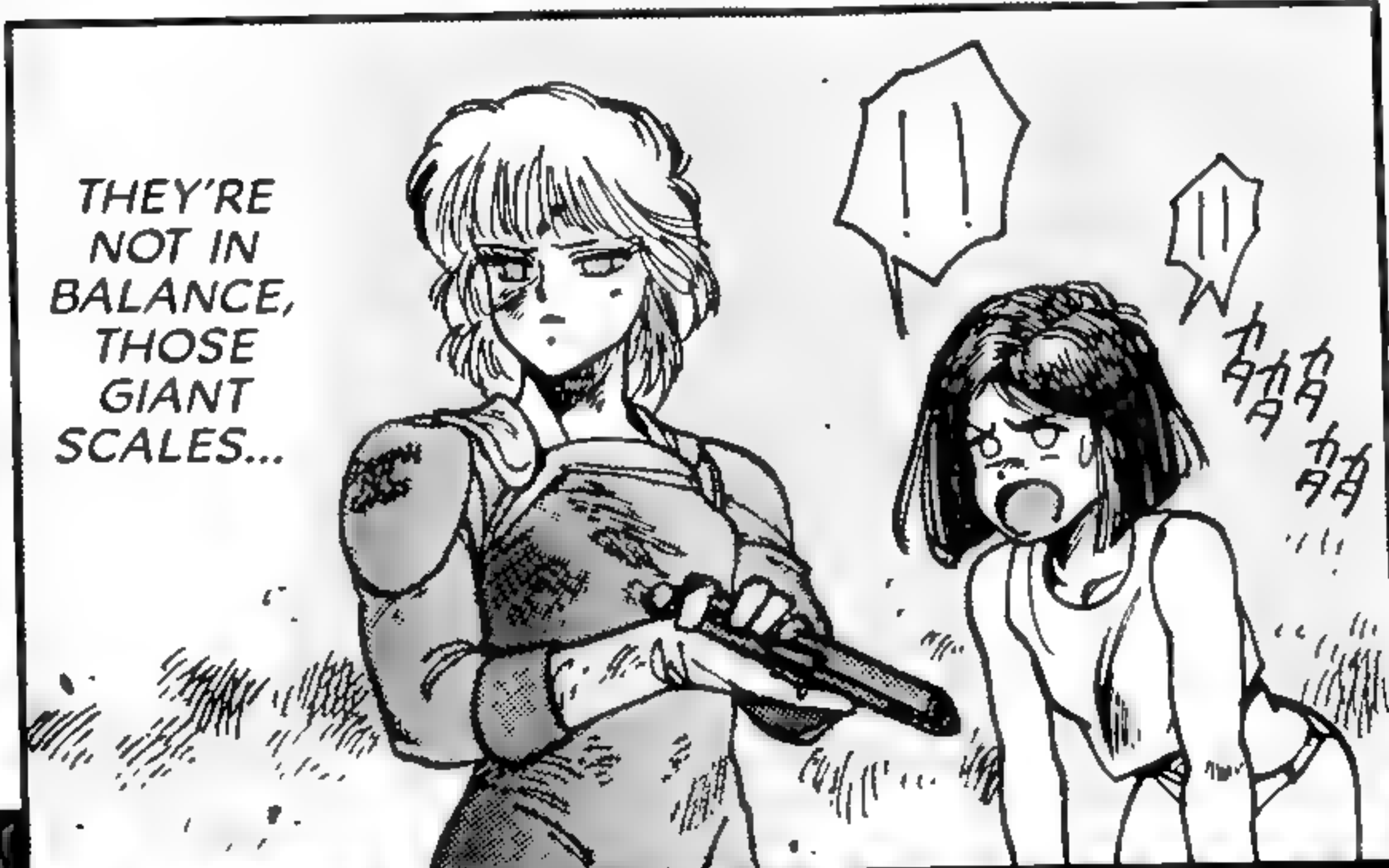
\*FX TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK

\*FX TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK



A  
PERFECTLY  
CON-  
STRUCTED  
TOY...

A UTOPIA  
DESIGNED  
FOR THE  
UTOPIAN  
SELF...



THEY'RE  
NOT IN  
BALANCE,  
THOSE  
GIANT  
SCALES...



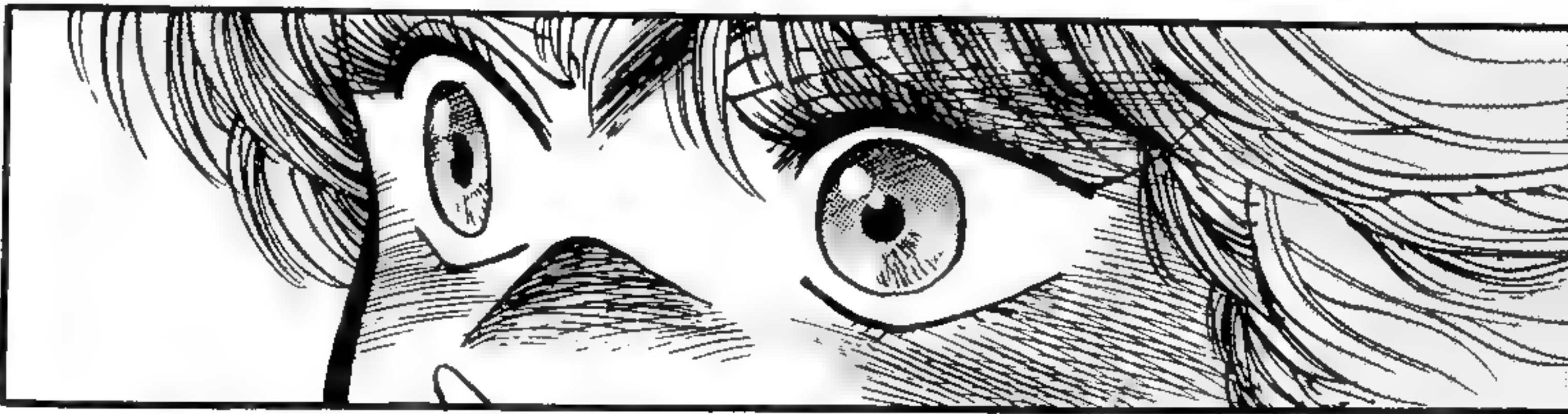
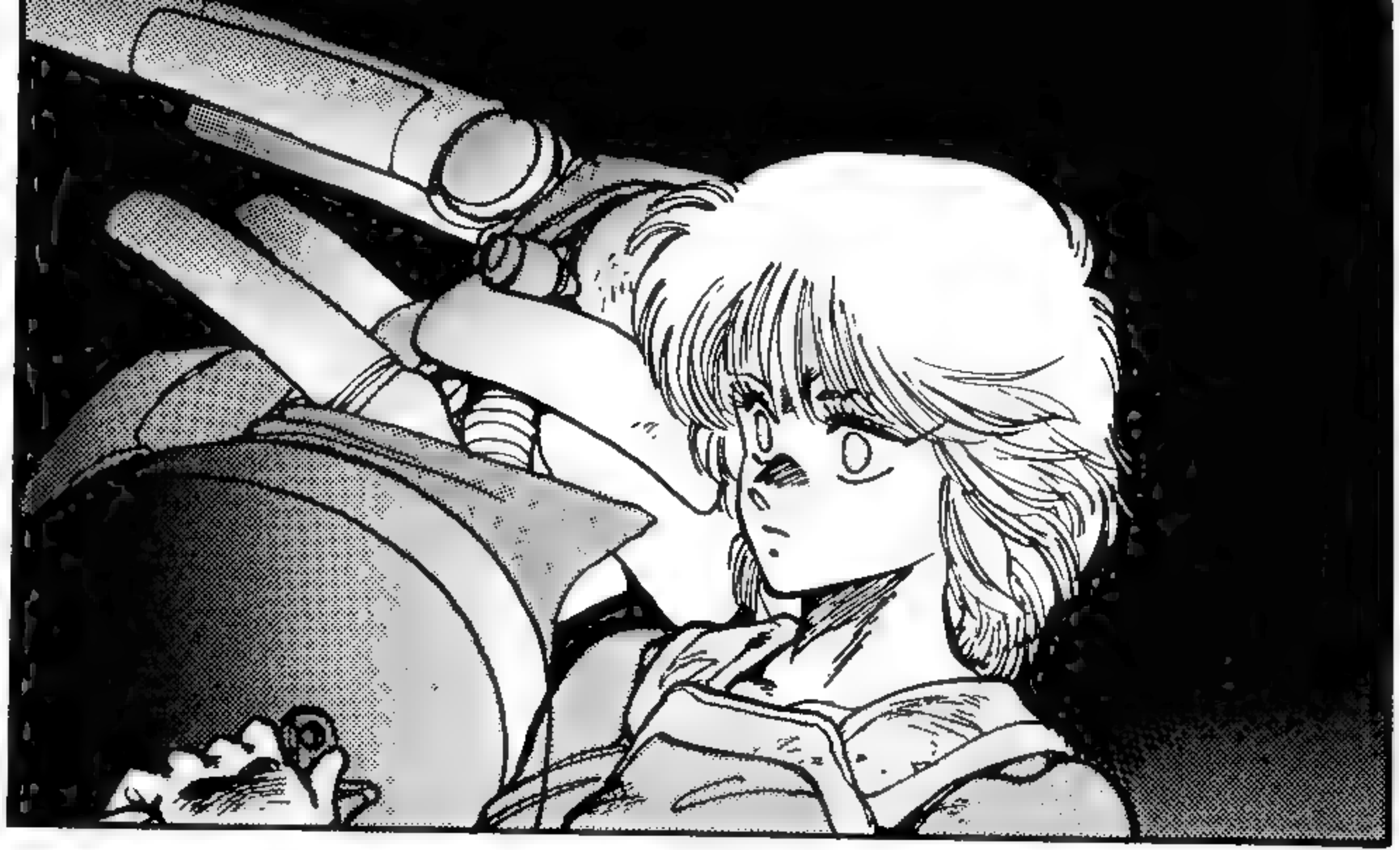
FOR  
WHOM?

TO  
WHAT  
END...?

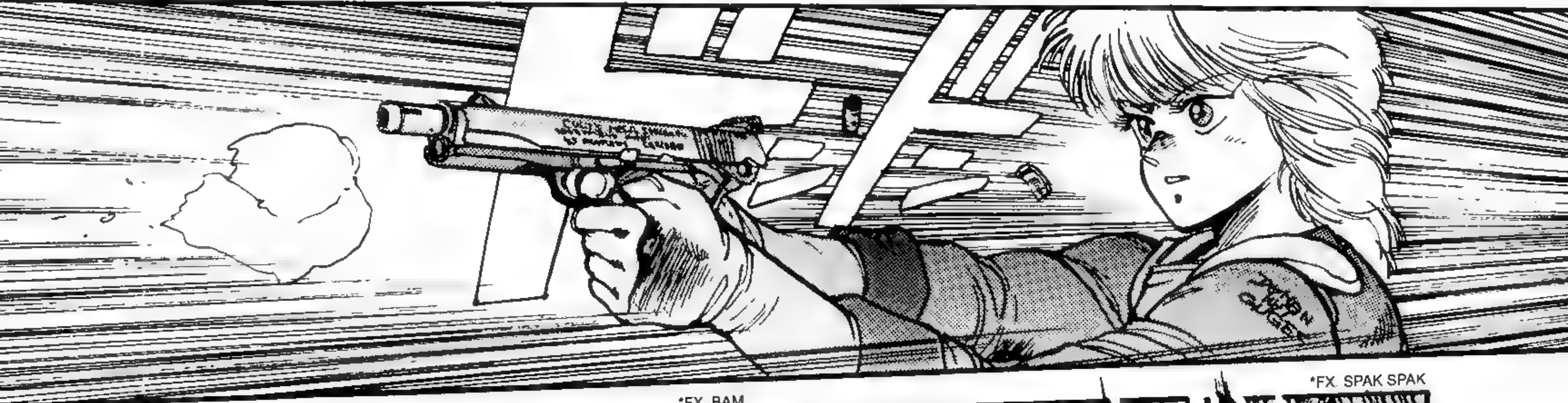
ANY-  
MORE... I  
DON'T...

\*T K TIK T K TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK T K TIK TIK TIK





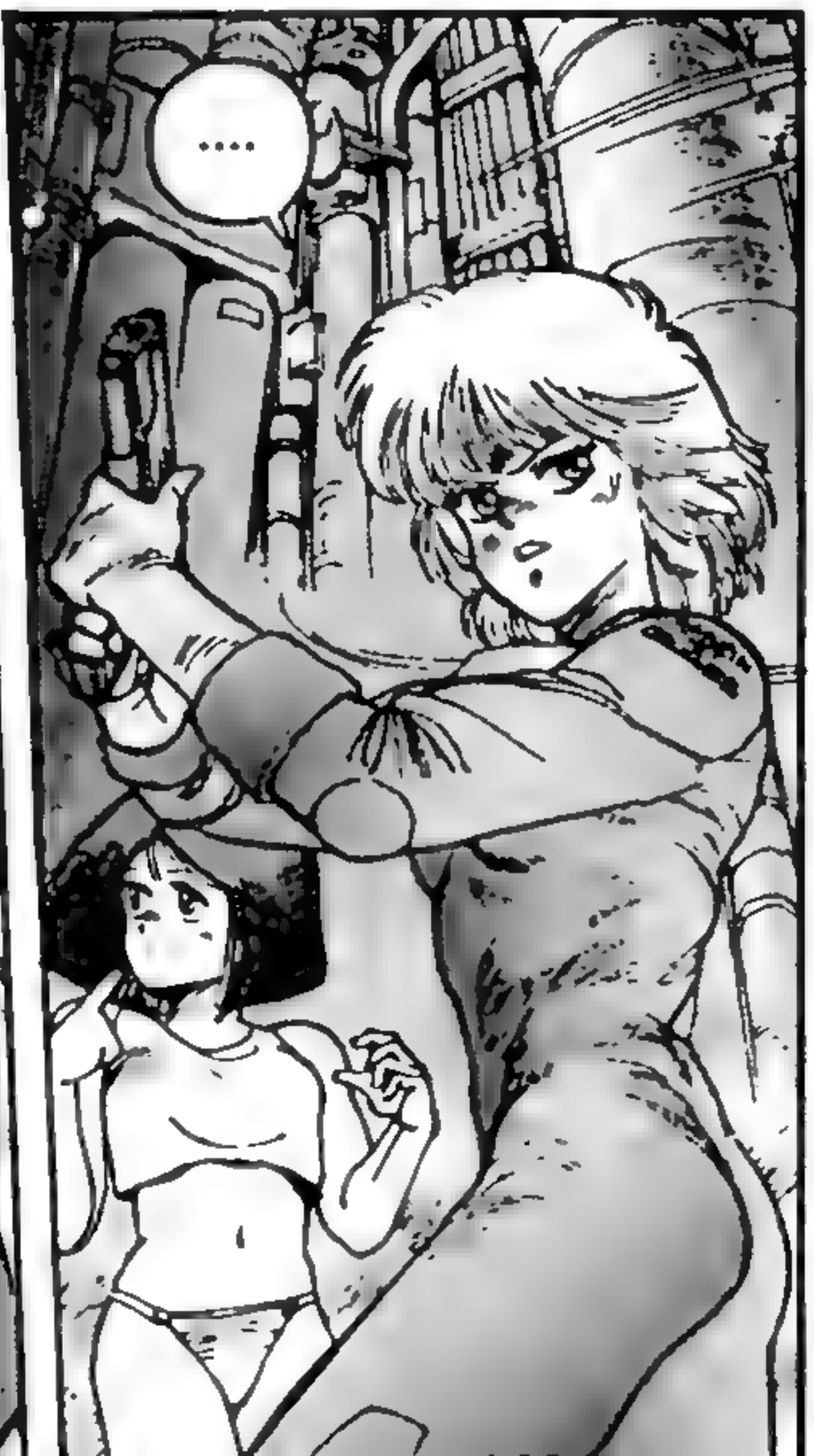
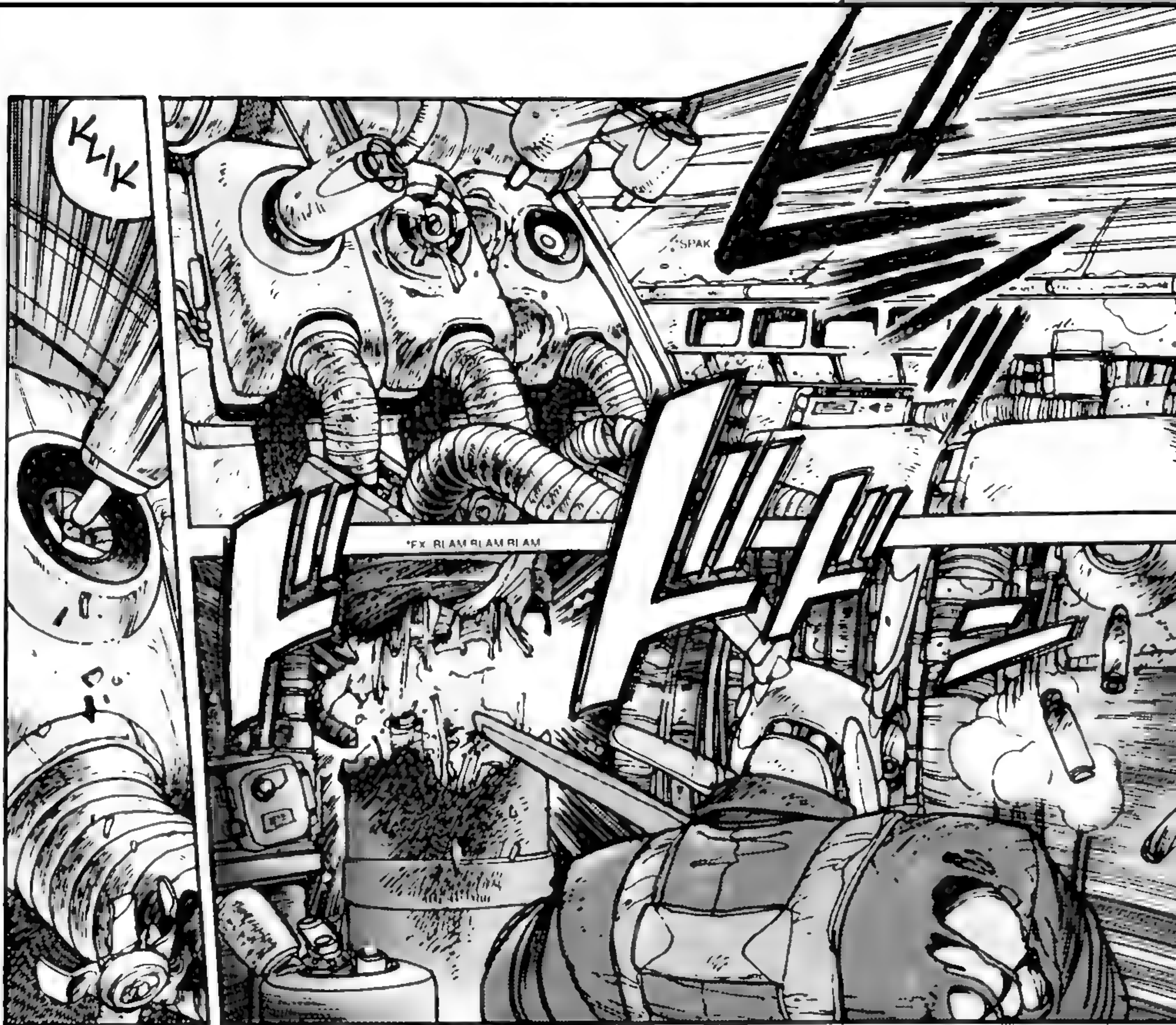
\*FX BAM BAM



\*FX BAM



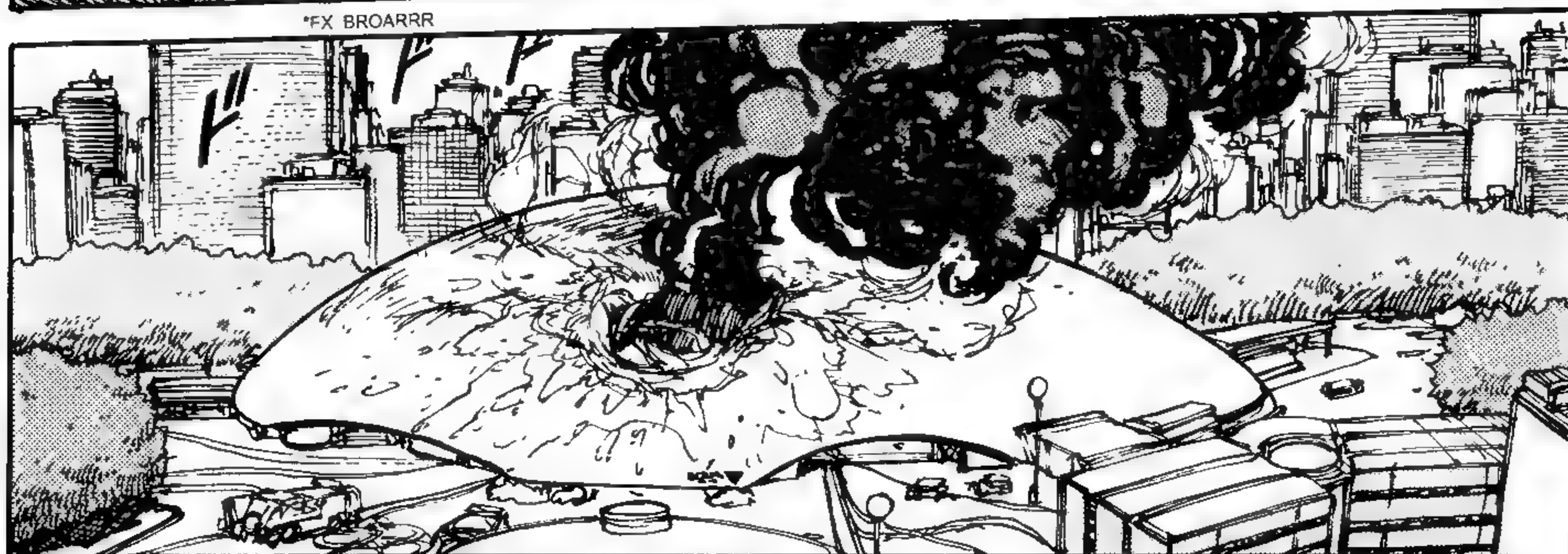




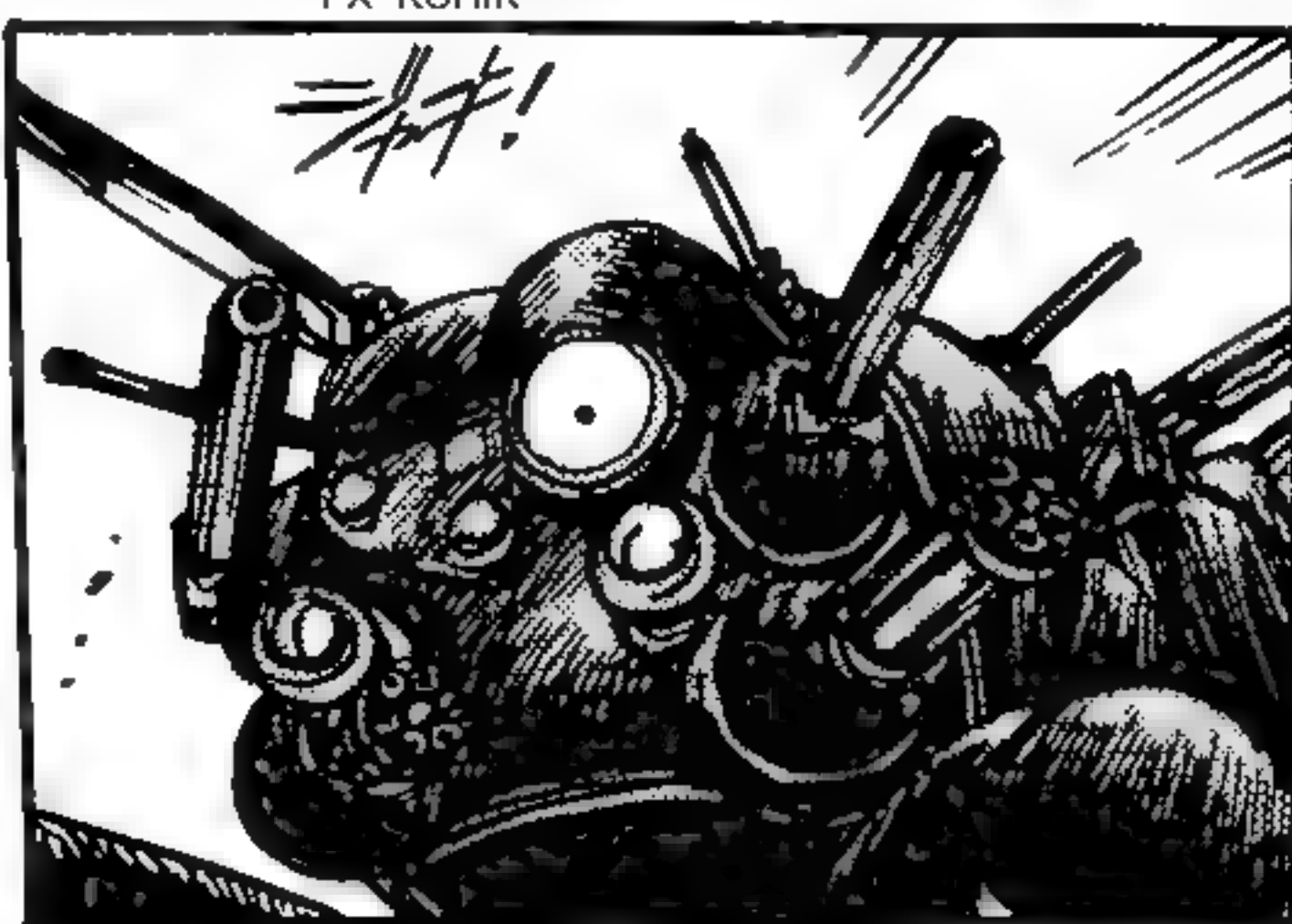
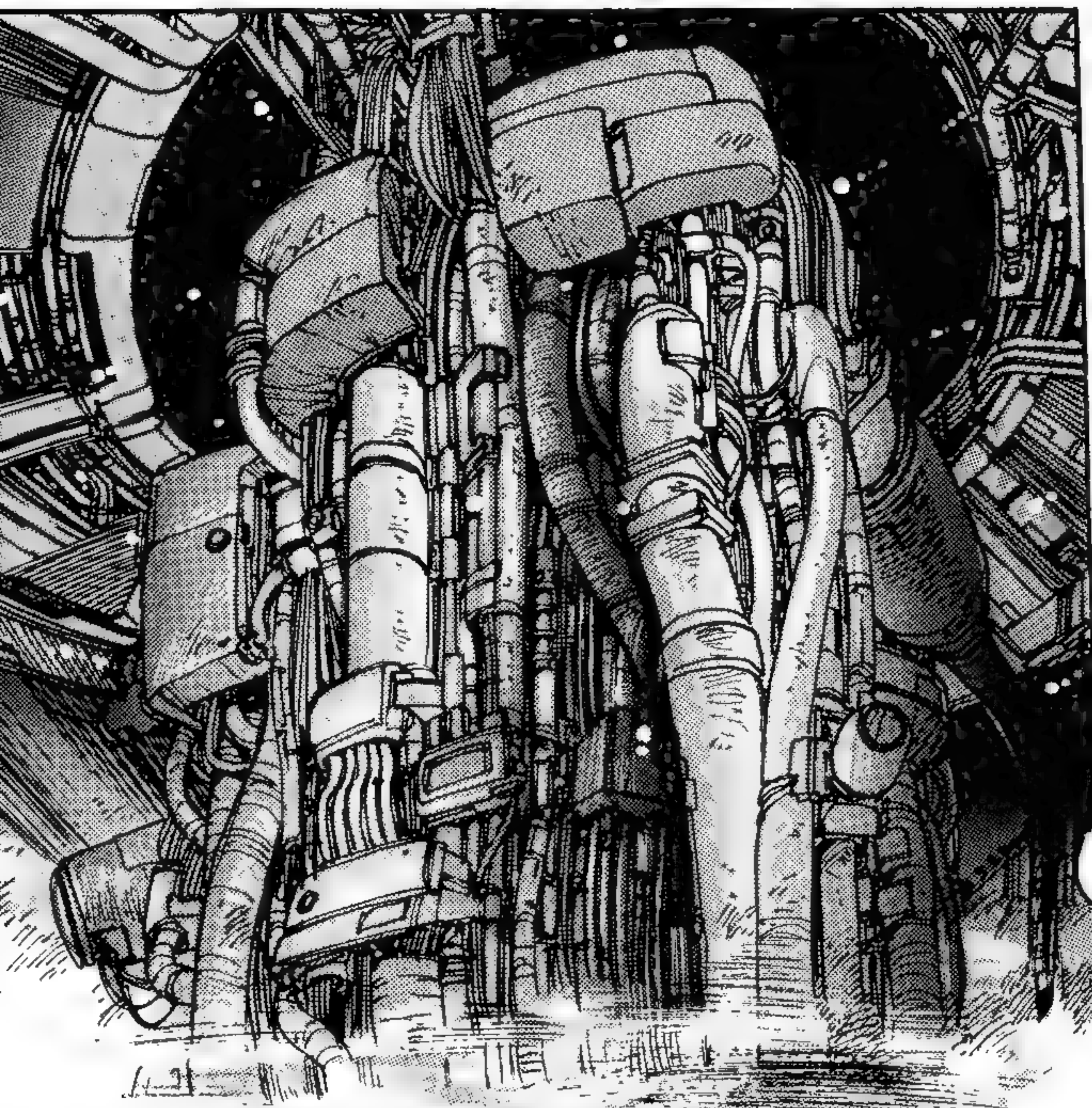




\*FX BROARRR



\*FX KCHIK

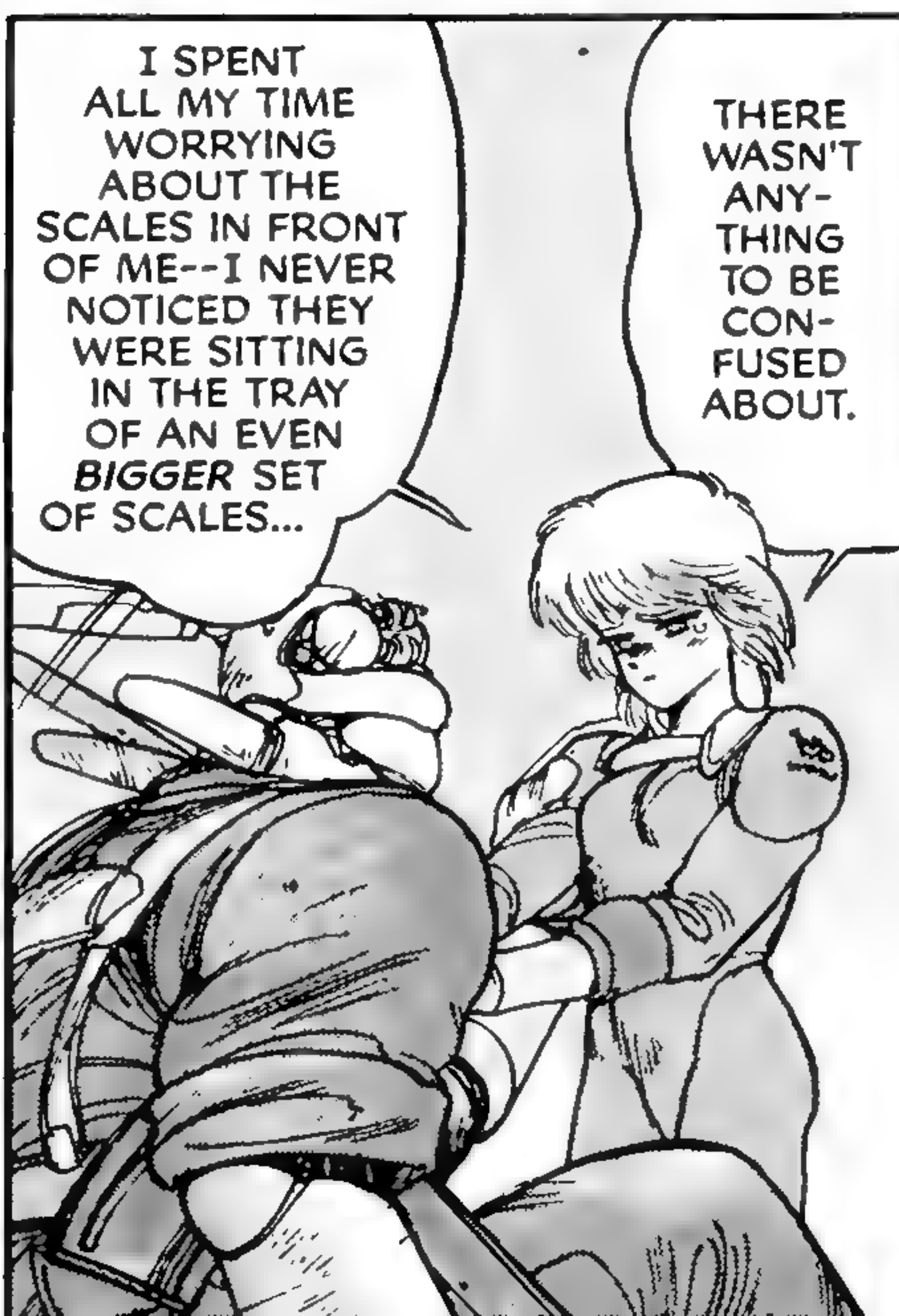
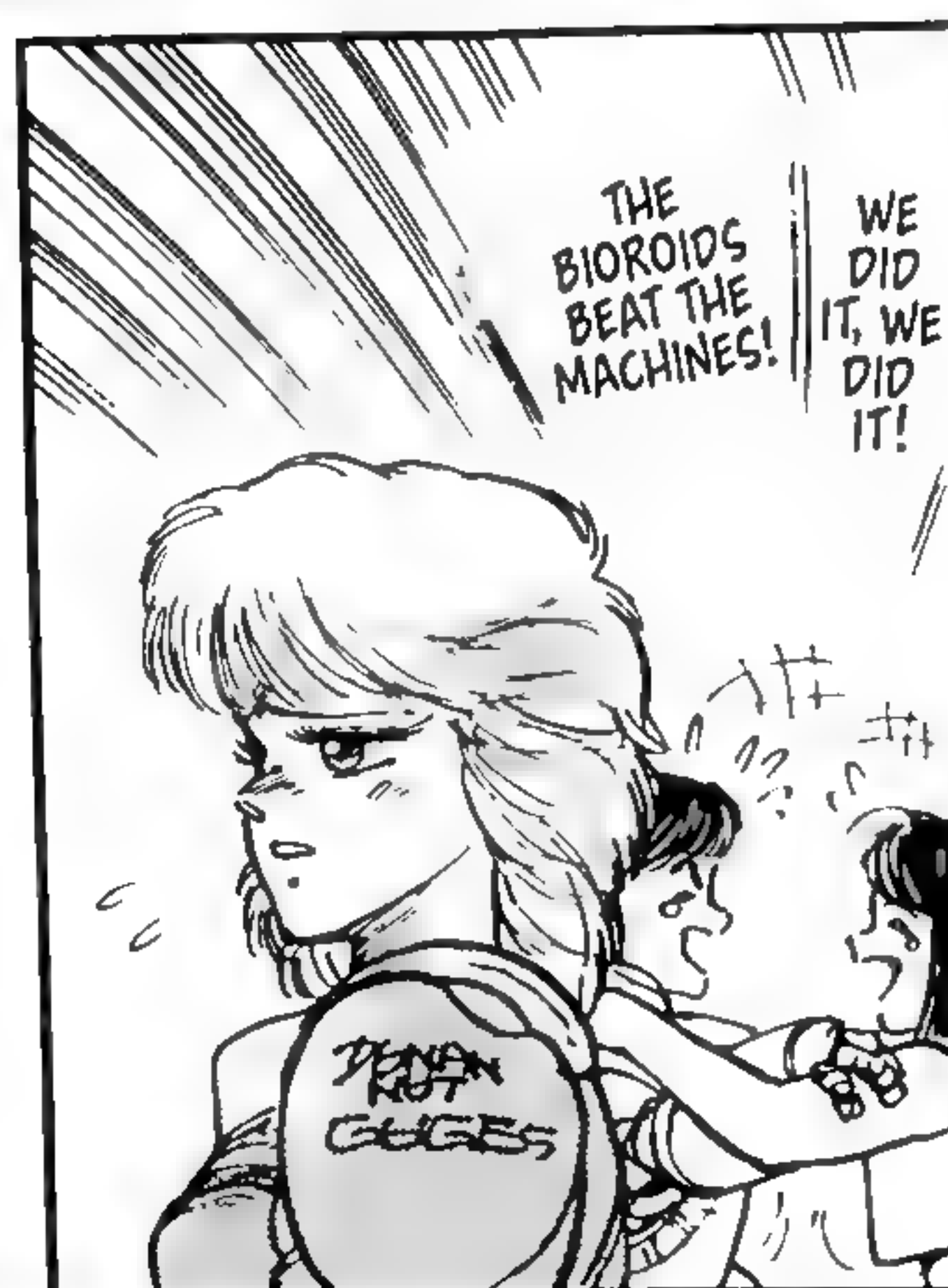


\*FX: BWHOOOM



\*FX ZUZUZUZU









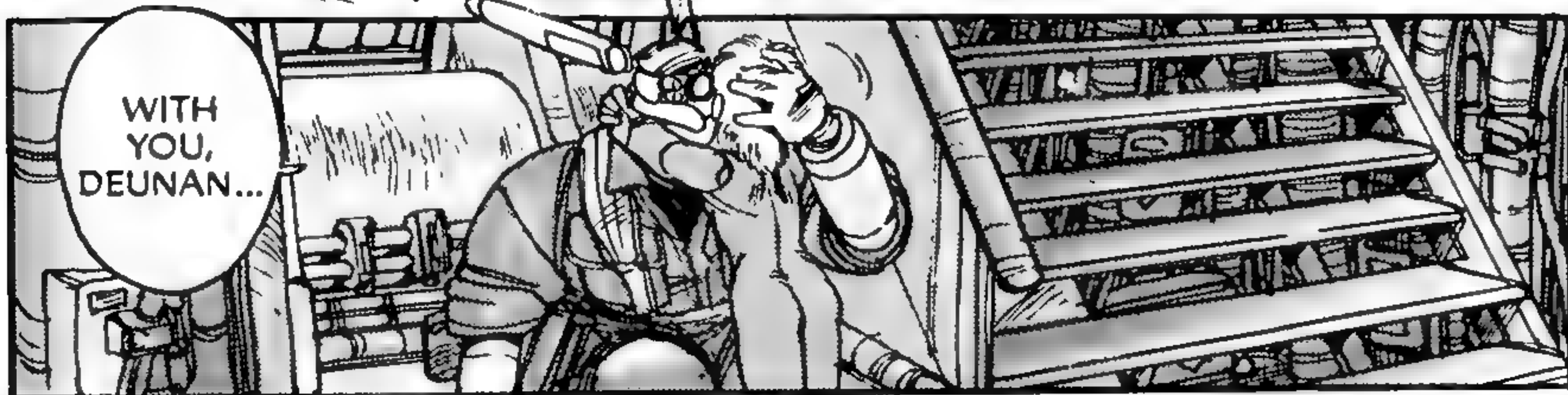
...I CAN'T  
LET HER  
DESTROY  
THIS  
CITY.

WHETHER  
GAIAS'  
RIGHT  
OR  
WRONG...

IF THE  
OTHER  
HUMANS CAN'T  
COPE WITH  
PRESSURE,  
THEN LET THEM  
BE MADE INTO  
BIOROIDS.



THE CITY  
WHERE  
YOU  
LIVE,  
BRI...



WITH  
YOU,  
DEUNAN...



SO IT SEEMS  
THAT THE  
PROBLEM WASN'T  
HUMAN NATURE  
AFTER ALL. THE  
PLANS FOR  
OLYMPUS *ITSELF*  
WERE TOO  
OPTIMISTIC...

RELIGION,  
PHILOSOPHY,  
CUSTOMS, IDEOLOGY,  
ETHNICITY... IN OUR  
HASTE TO BRING  
THEM ALL  
TOGETHER, WE PILED  
UP TOO MANY  
COMPROMISES,  
TOO MANY  
MACHINES.

BIP



HMM...

THE FIRST  
STIRRINGS  
OF A NEW  
INDIVIDUALISM?





"THE LIMITS WERE OURS... THE LIMITS OF OLYMPUS..."

"NO FLEXIBILITY... A TOTALLY DEAD SOCIETY. WE FORGOT THAT TOOLS ALWAYS NEED A HAND TO GUIDE THEM..."



...OLYMPUS WILL BE NOTHING BUT ANOTHER PAWN IN THE GAME.

AND NOW, WITH THE COUNCIL'S HOPE PLAN...

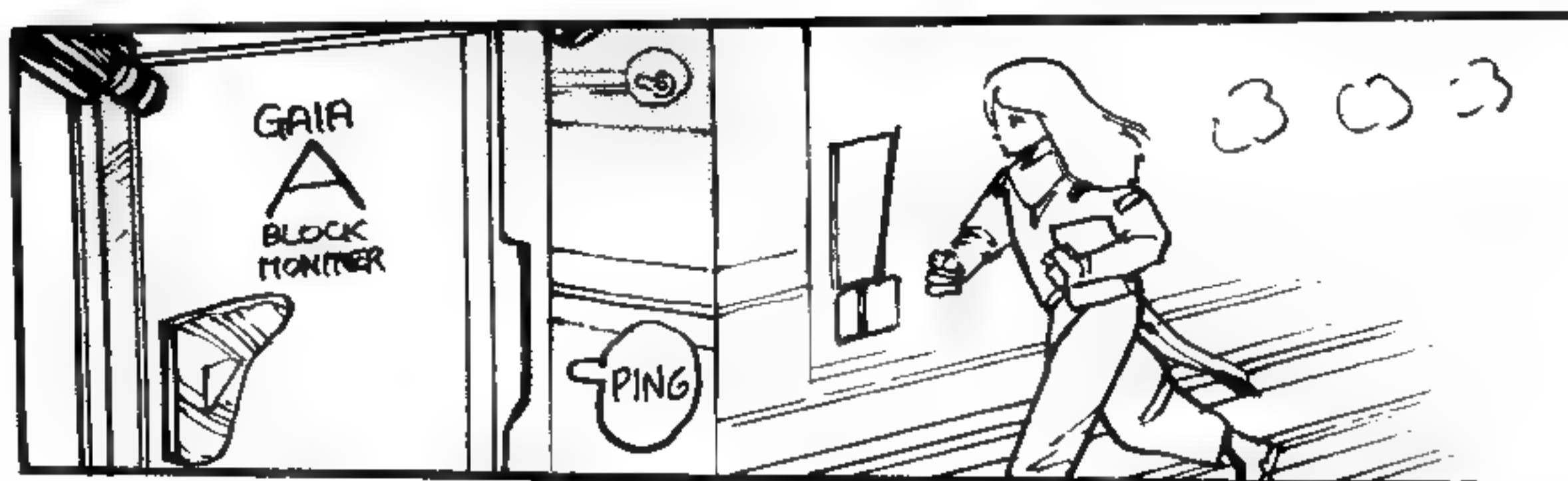


DON'T WORRY-- I'LL FORCE A RIDER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ORIGINAL SPECIES.

THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL WILL PASS AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE?! ARE YOU SURE?

?

\*FX: TAK TAK TAK TAK



I'M GOING TO MEET THE COUNCIL!

GET ME A HELICOPTER!

HA?!

\*FX VNN



\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

IN ANY CASE,  
THE COUNCIL CAN  
DO AS THEY PLEASE...  
JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO,  
GAIA GAVE ME THE NEXT  
NAME IN THE REGISTER  
OF KEYWORD HOLDERS.  
WITH THEM, I CAN  
TRIGGER THE NEXT  
STAGE OF GAIA'S  
DEVELOPMENT.

STILL,  
USING  
**NEITHER**  
IS THE  
BEST  
SOLUTION  
OF  
ALL.

EVEN THE  
BEST MEDICINE  
CAN BE POISONOUS  
IF YOU TAKE TOO  
MUCH... AND POISON  
IN THE RIGHT  
QUANTITIES OFTEN  
MAKES GOOD  
MEDICINE.

IT  
WON'T  
BE A  
"FINAL  
SOLU-  
TION."

\*FX KYUN KYUN KYUN KYUN KYUN

HMM?

...AND NOW THE  
KEYWORD  
REGISTER. THE  
PIECES ARE  
FINALLY COMING  
TOGETHER--  
I CAN SEE IT  
NOW.

COLLECT-  
ING GUINEA  
PIGS,  
PUTTING  
LANDMATES  
ON SALE,  
THE HOPE  
PLAN...

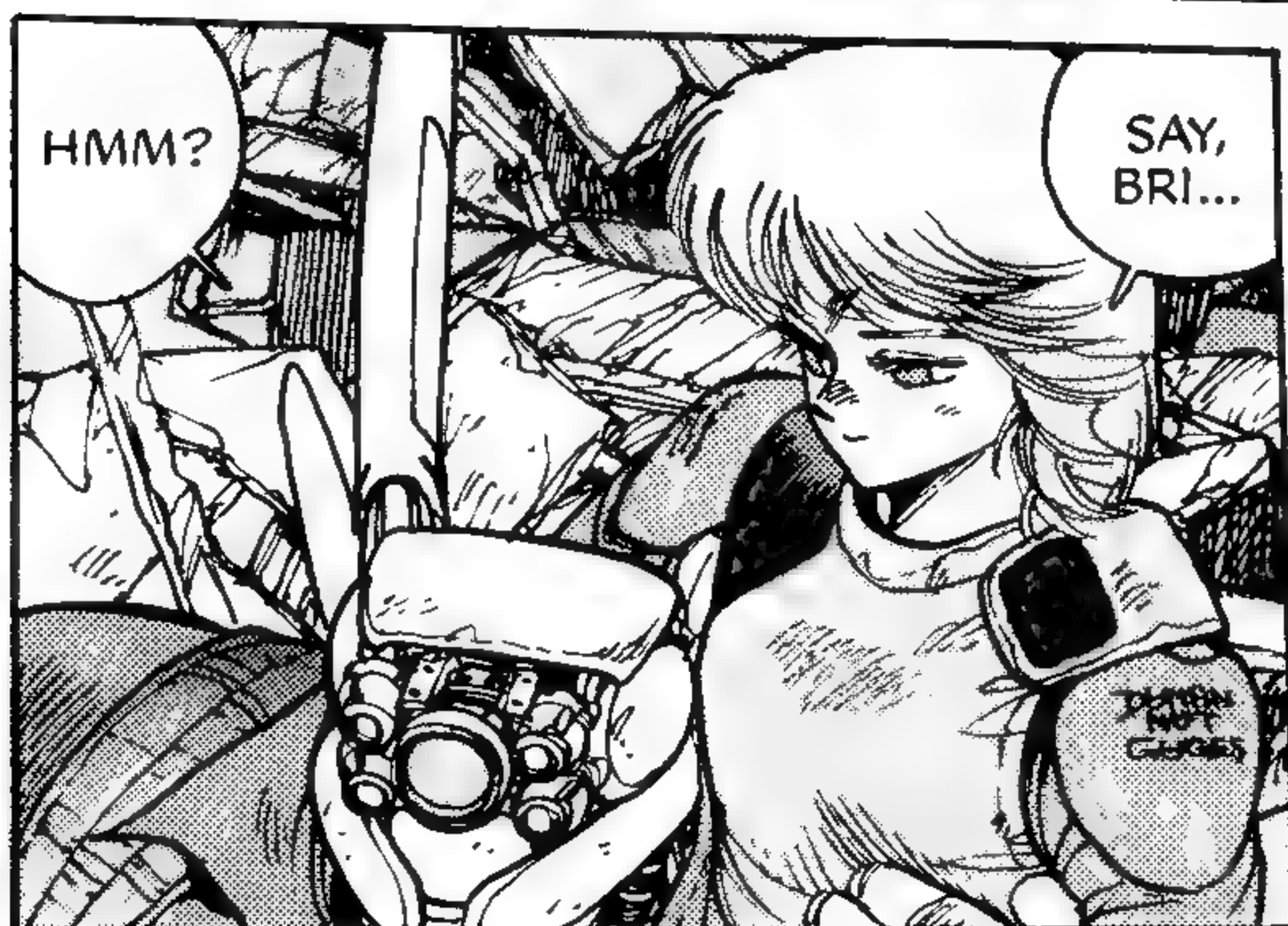
\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

THIS WILL  
BE THE AGE  
WHEN "HOMO  
SAPIENS" TAKES  
ON ITS TRUE  
MEANING...  
"MAN OF  
WISDOM!"

THE AGE  
OF THE  
BIO-  
ROIDS...







HMM?

SAY, BRI...



I DUNNO...  
MAYBE  
GO BACK  
INTO  
THAT  
JAIL?

SO  
WHAT  
DO WE  
DO  
NOW?



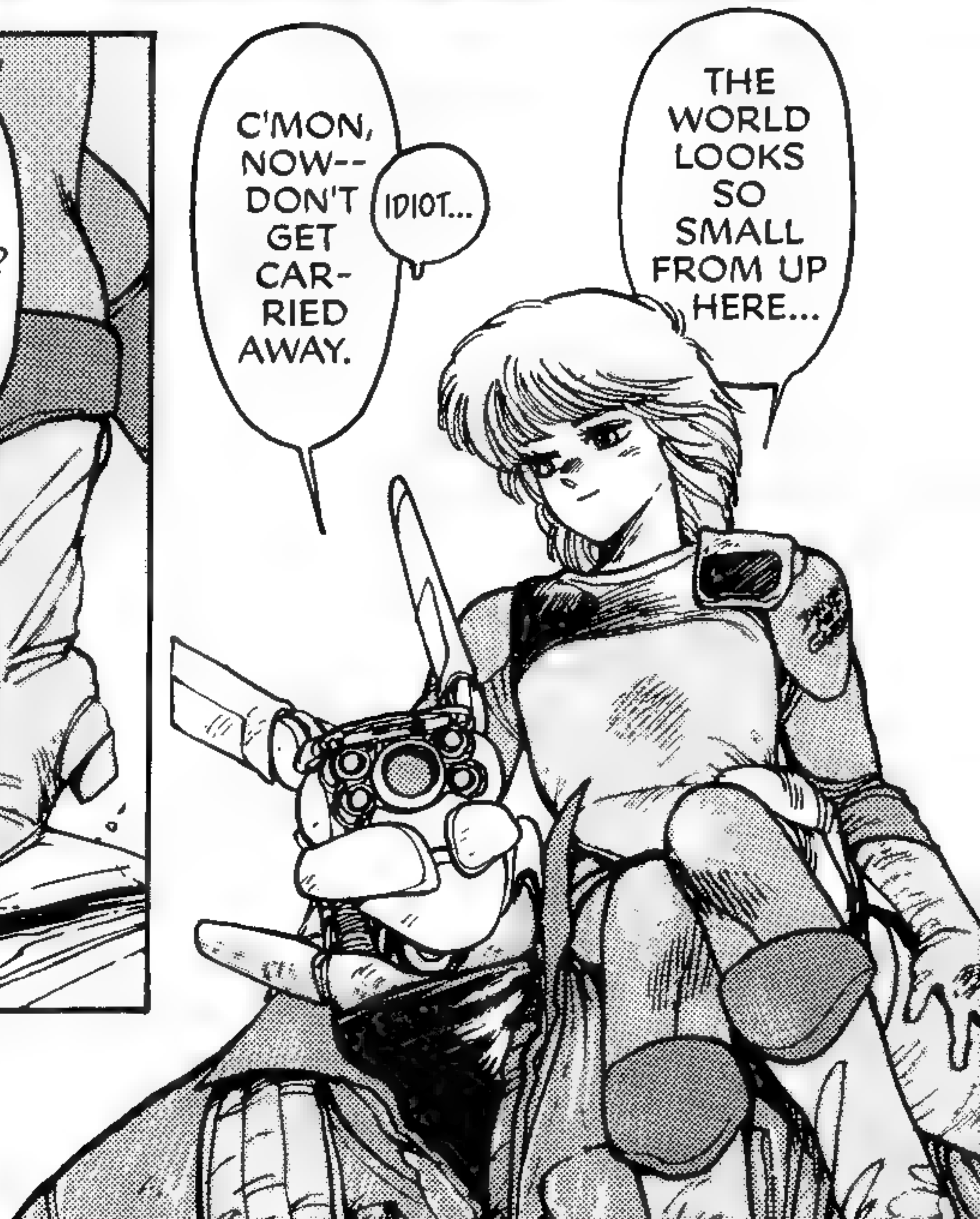
SOUNDS  
FINE  
TO ME.

WANT  
TO GO  
TAKE  
A GOOD  
LOOK AT  
THIS CITY  
WITH  
ME?

I THINK  
I'M GOING  
TO TAKE A  
LOOONG  
VACA-  
TION.



KNOW  
WHAT...?

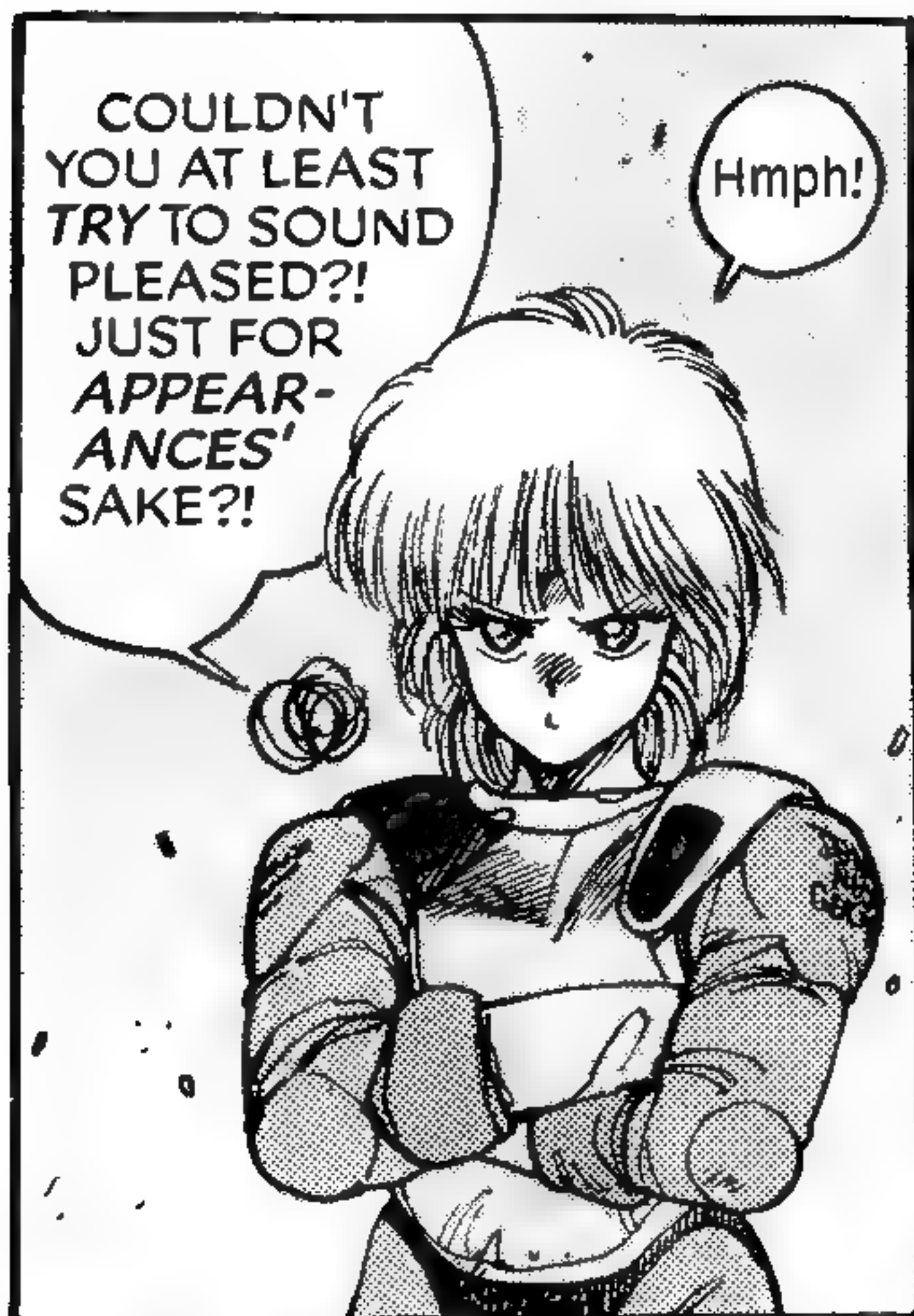


C'MON,  
NOW--  
DON'T  
GET  
CAR-  
RIED  
AWAY.

IDIOT...

THE  
WORLD  
LOOKS  
SO  
SMALL  
FROM UP  
HERE...





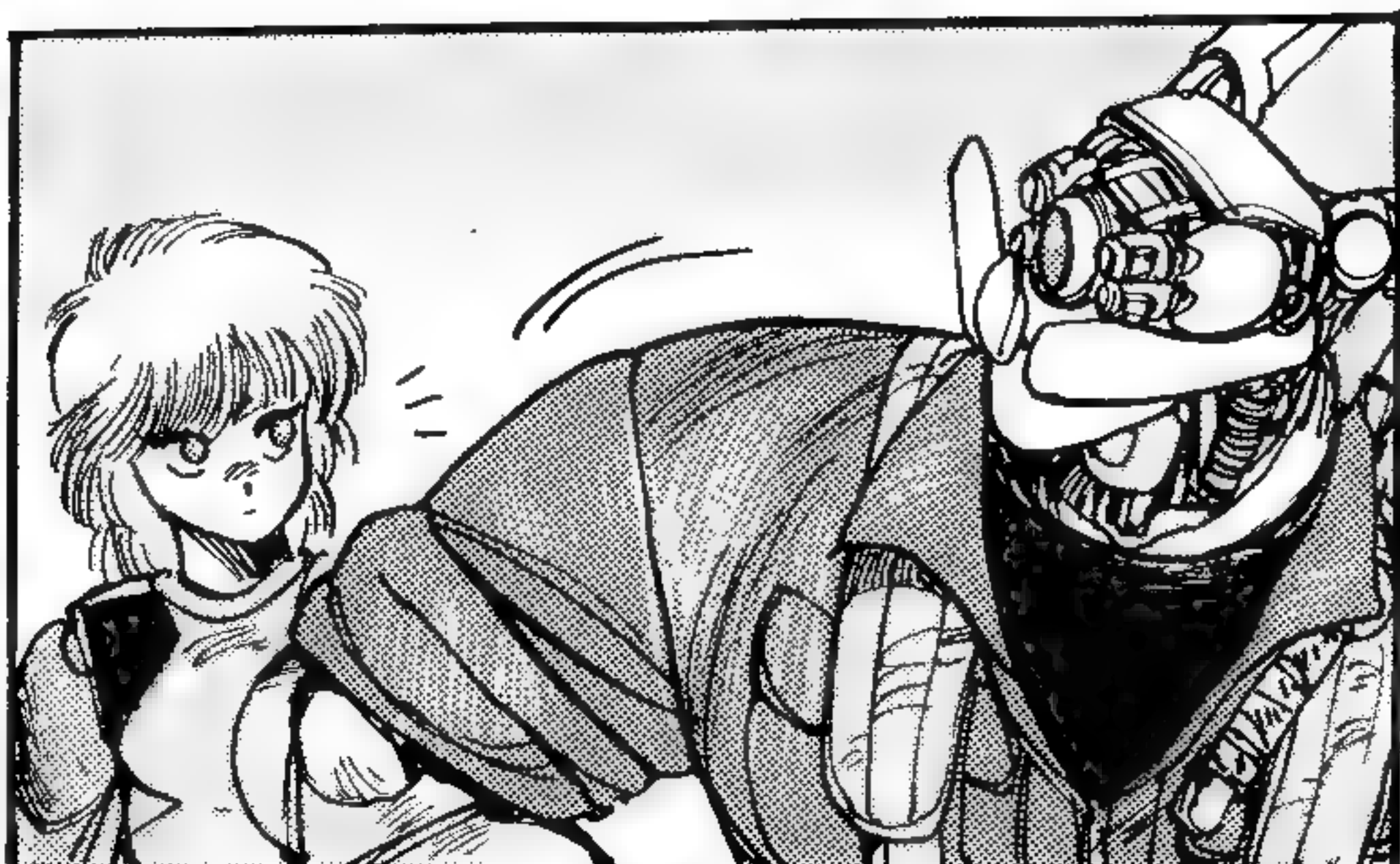
\*FX WEEEOOOO



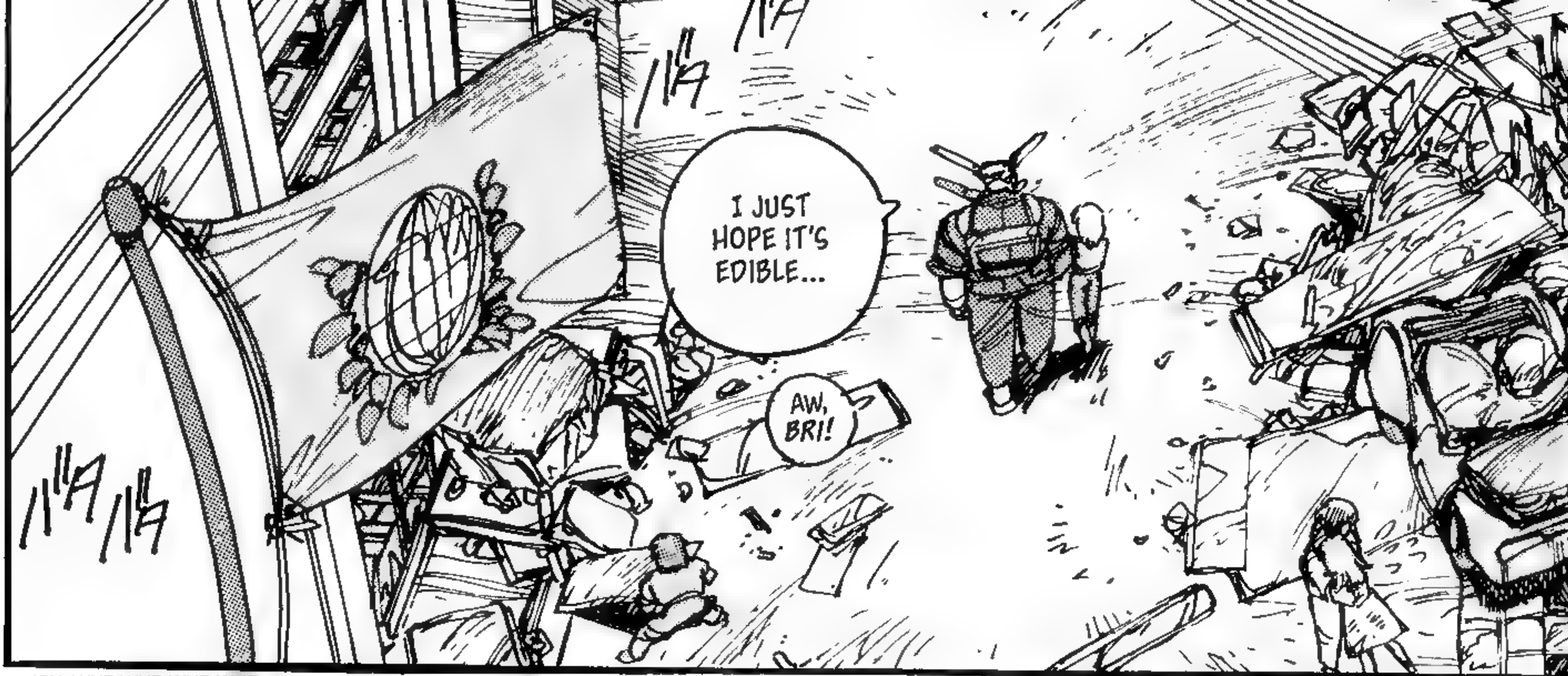
\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP



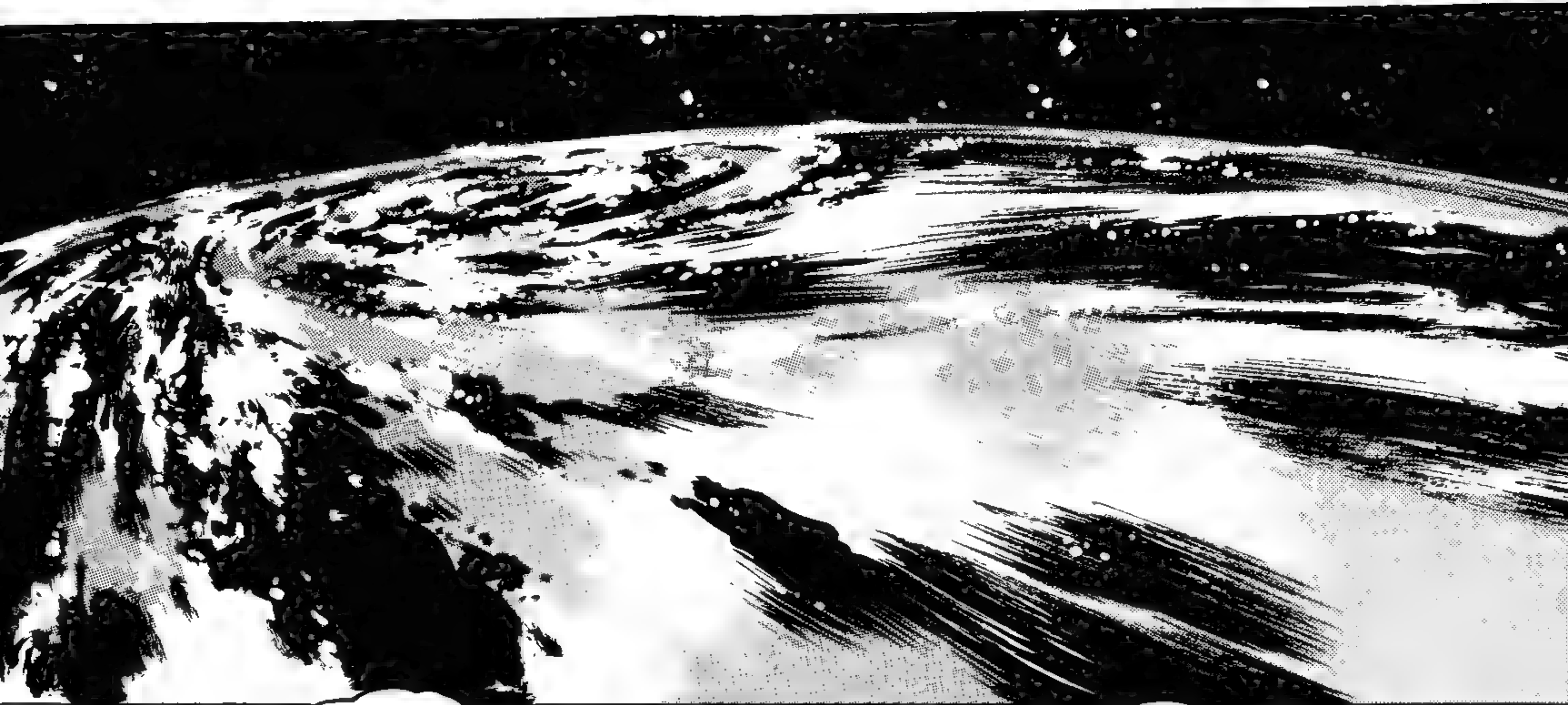
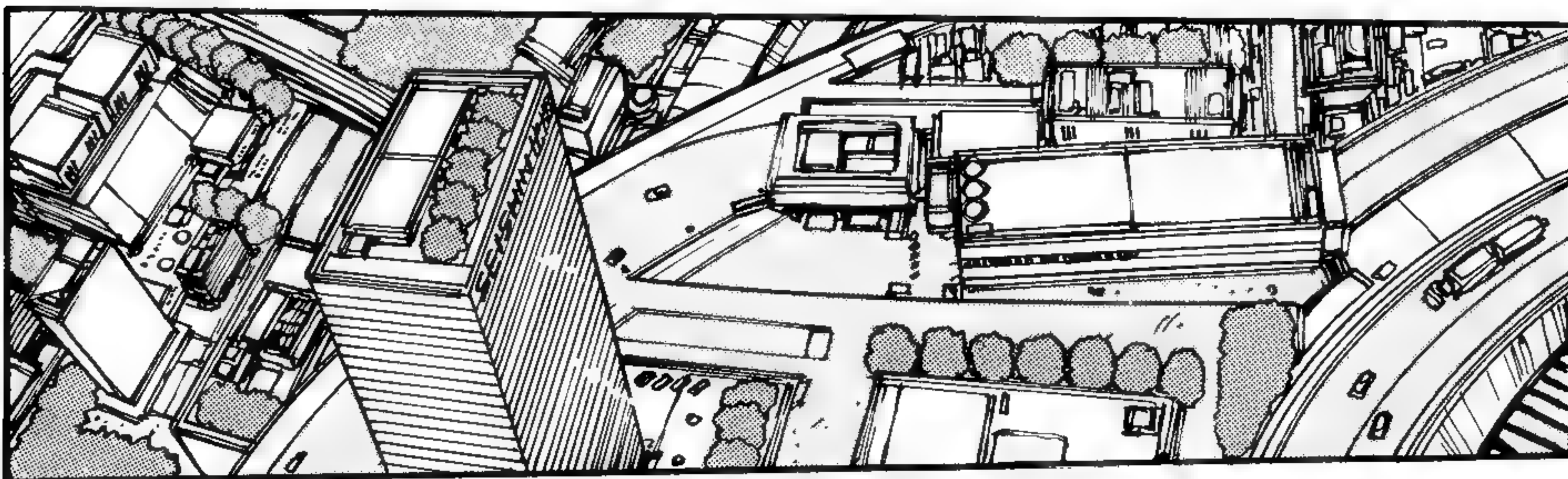
\*FX MMMMMM







\*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP

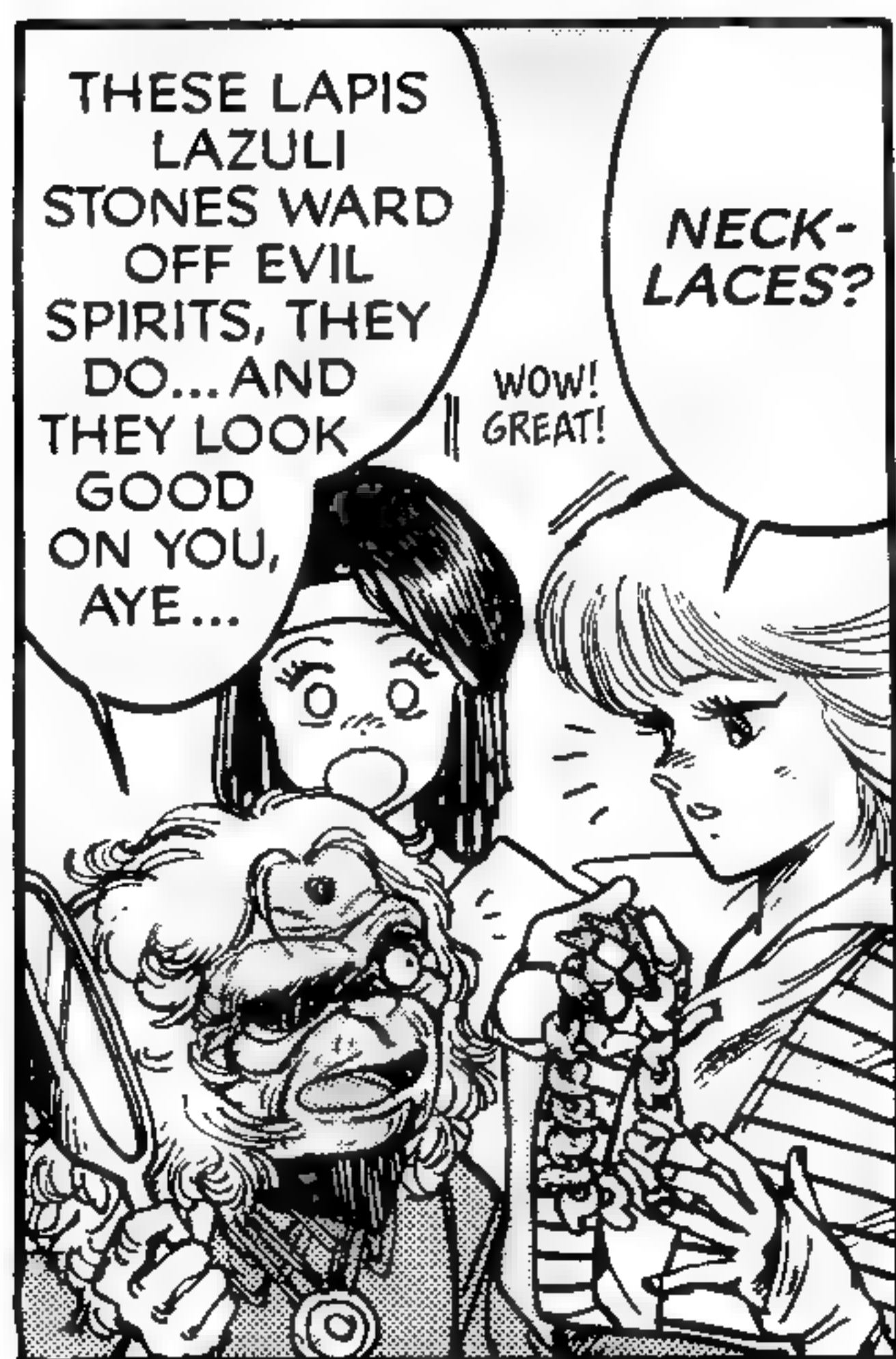
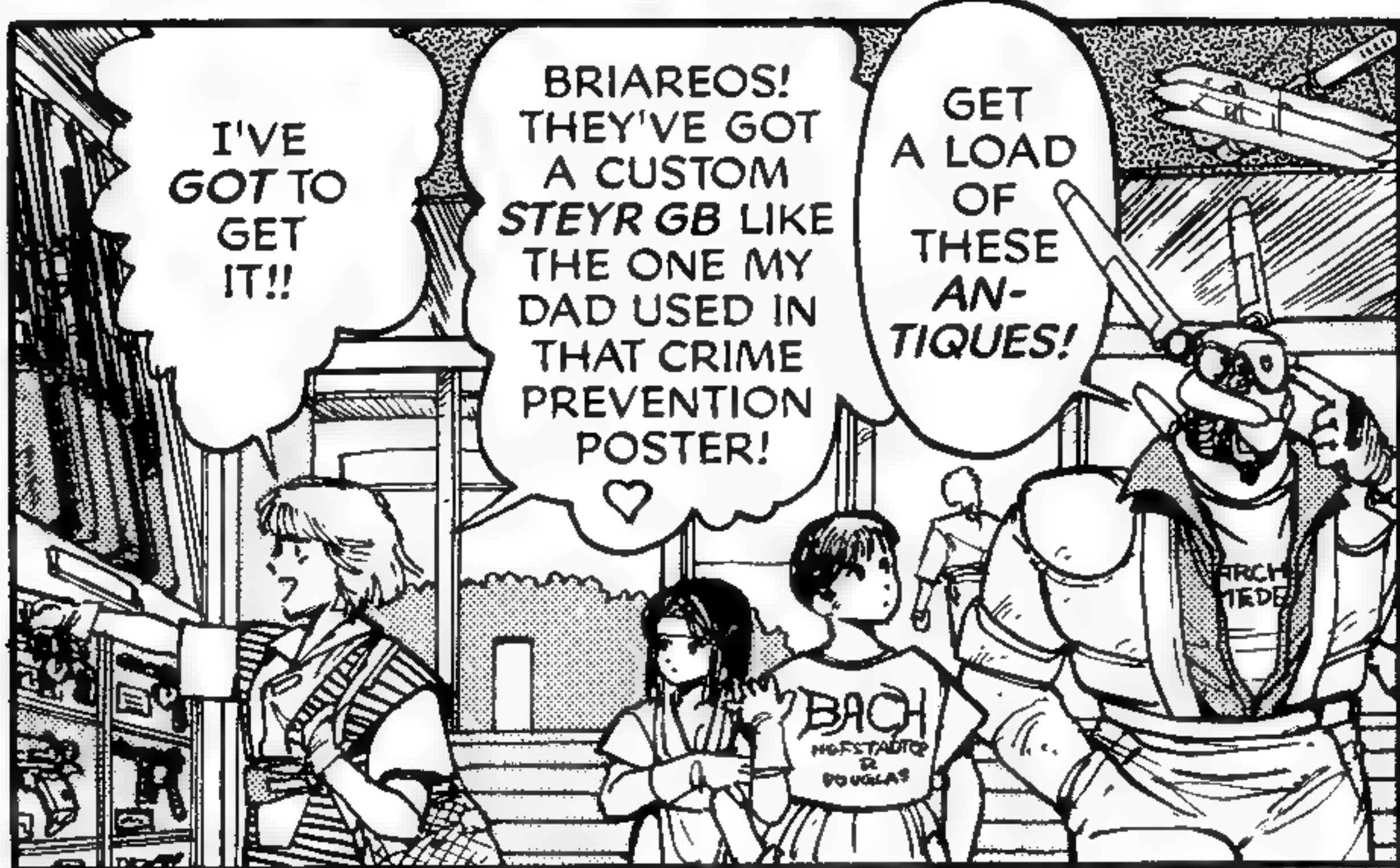
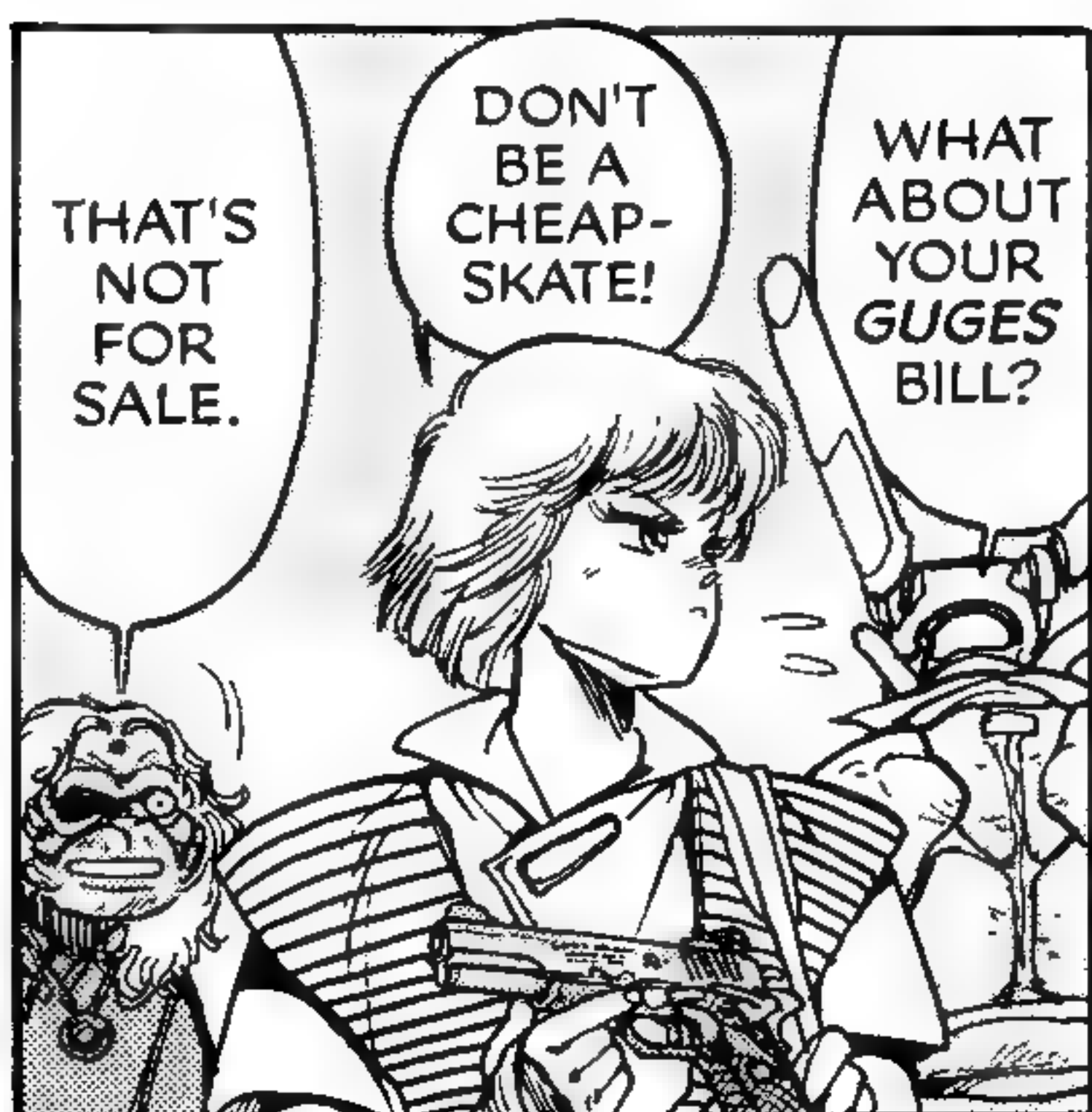
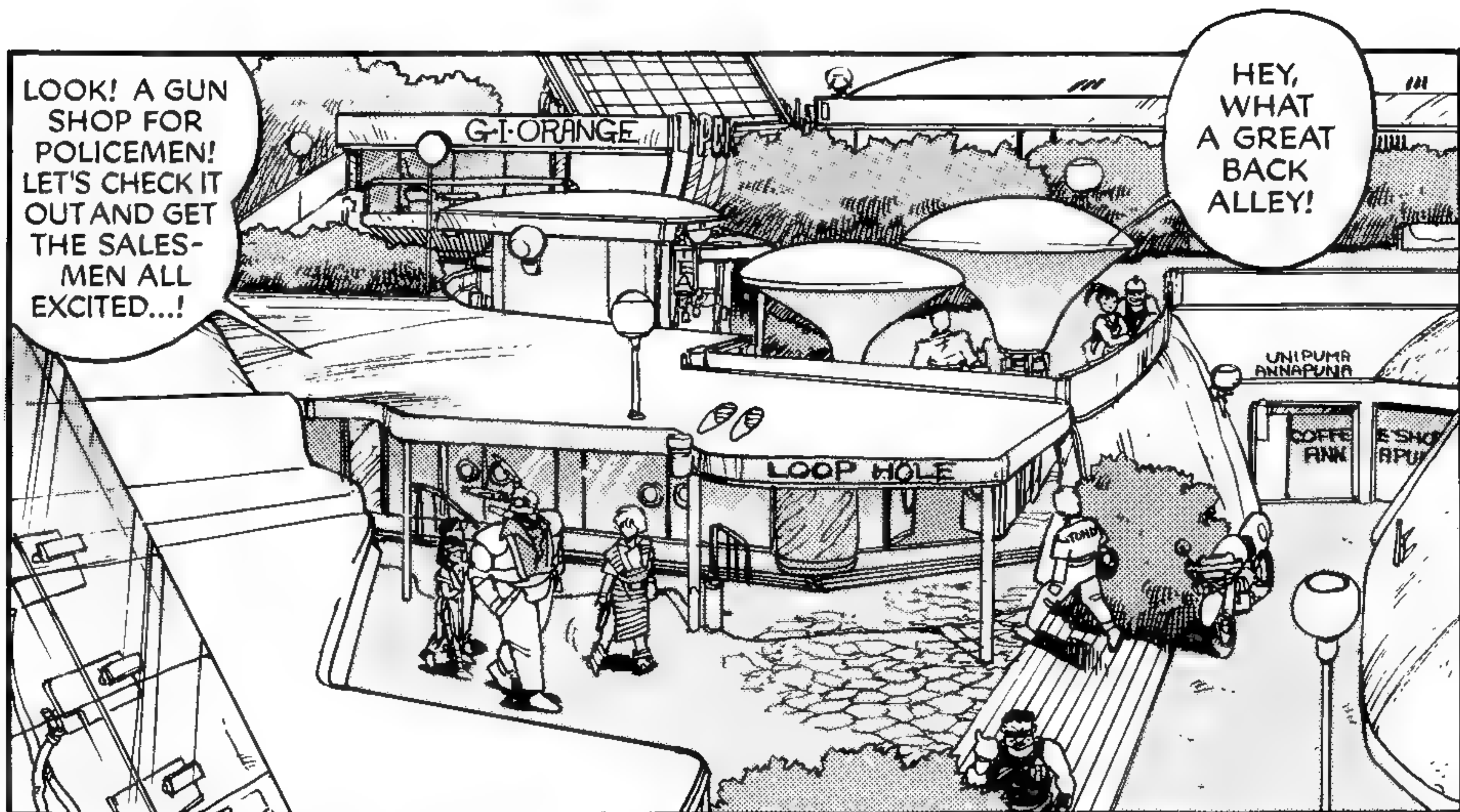




# APPENDIX











YOU'D BEST WATCH OUT-- IF THEY PERMITTED CROSSBREEDING WITH BIOROIDS, THEIR LITTLE LAW'D BE WORTHLESS!

FOOL!

DISCRIMINATION! DISCRIMINATION! WAAAAH!

LOOKS LIKE SEX DISCRIMINATION TO ME!

ALL RIGHT!! MY LUCKY DAY! I'M COVERED BY THE NEW ORIGINAL SPECIES ACT-- I'M NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A LIFE EXTENSION!



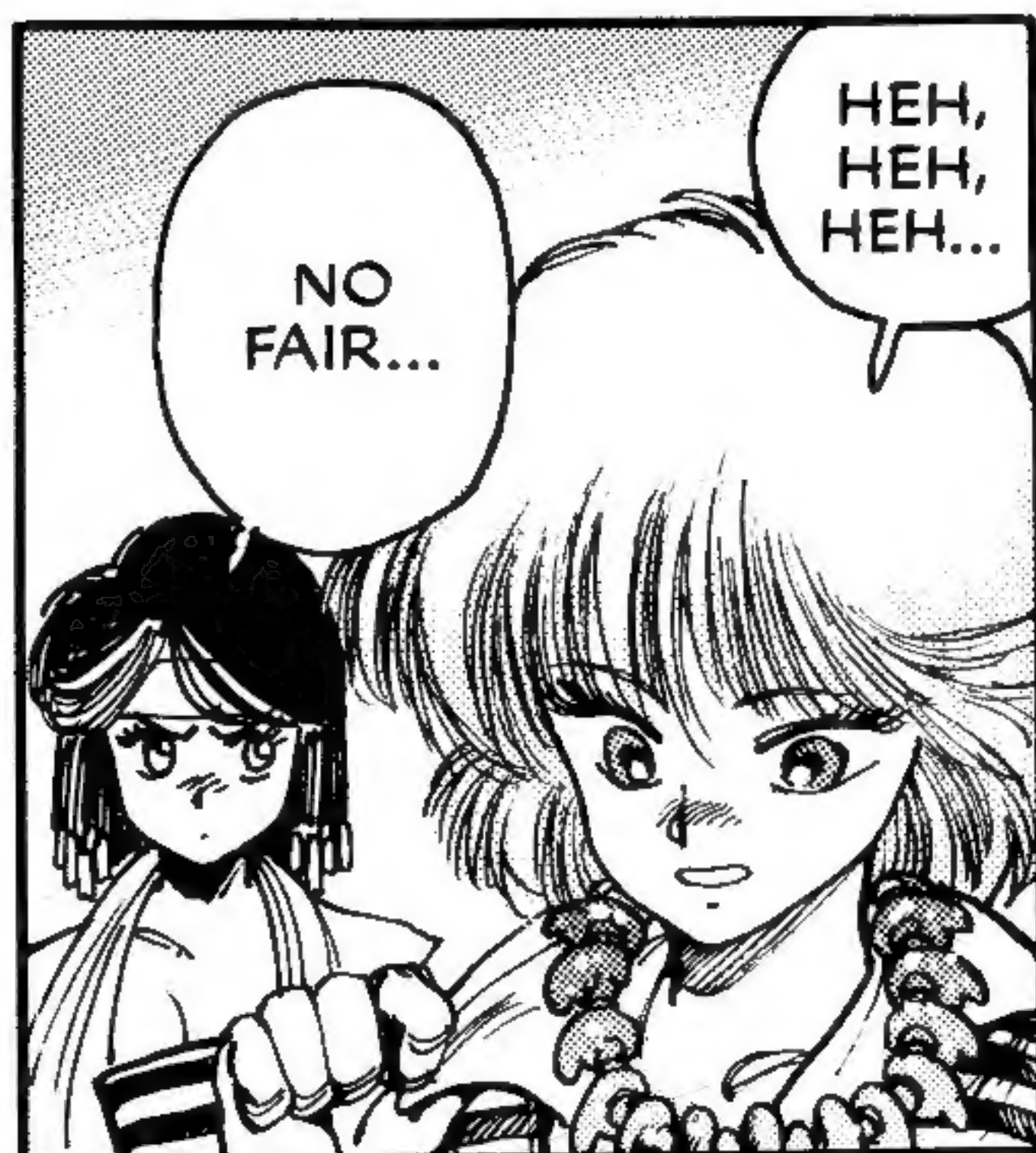
THE REAL THING! INCREDIBLE!

...BUT I'LL ONLY SELL THEM TO YOU IF YOU SWEAR TO NEVER GET A LIFE EXTENSION TREATMENT!



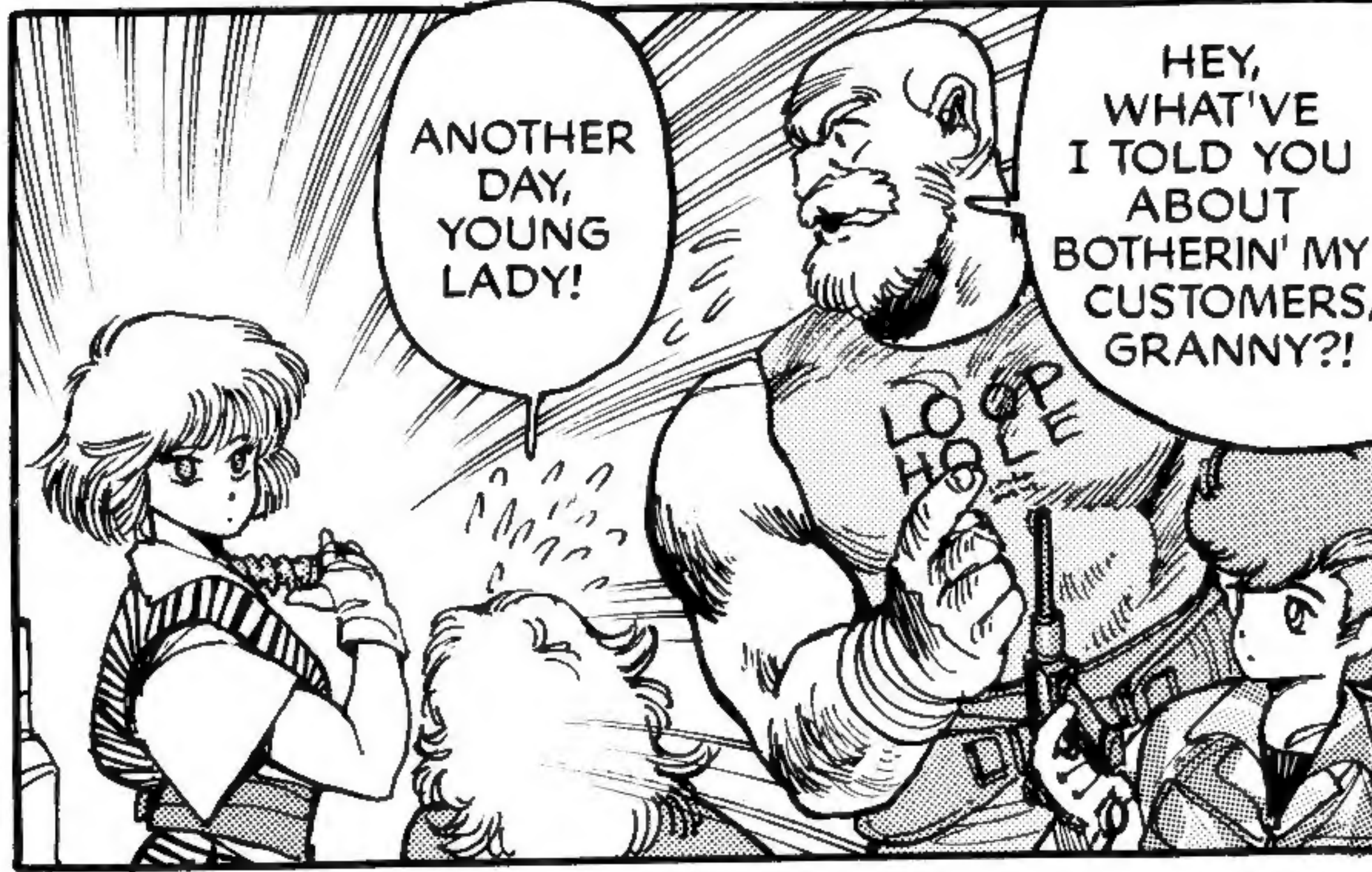
IT'S YOUR *SPIRIT* I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, NOT YOUR *BODY*!

ANYWAY, WHEN IT'S TIME, I'M GOING TO HAVE A CLONE MADE.



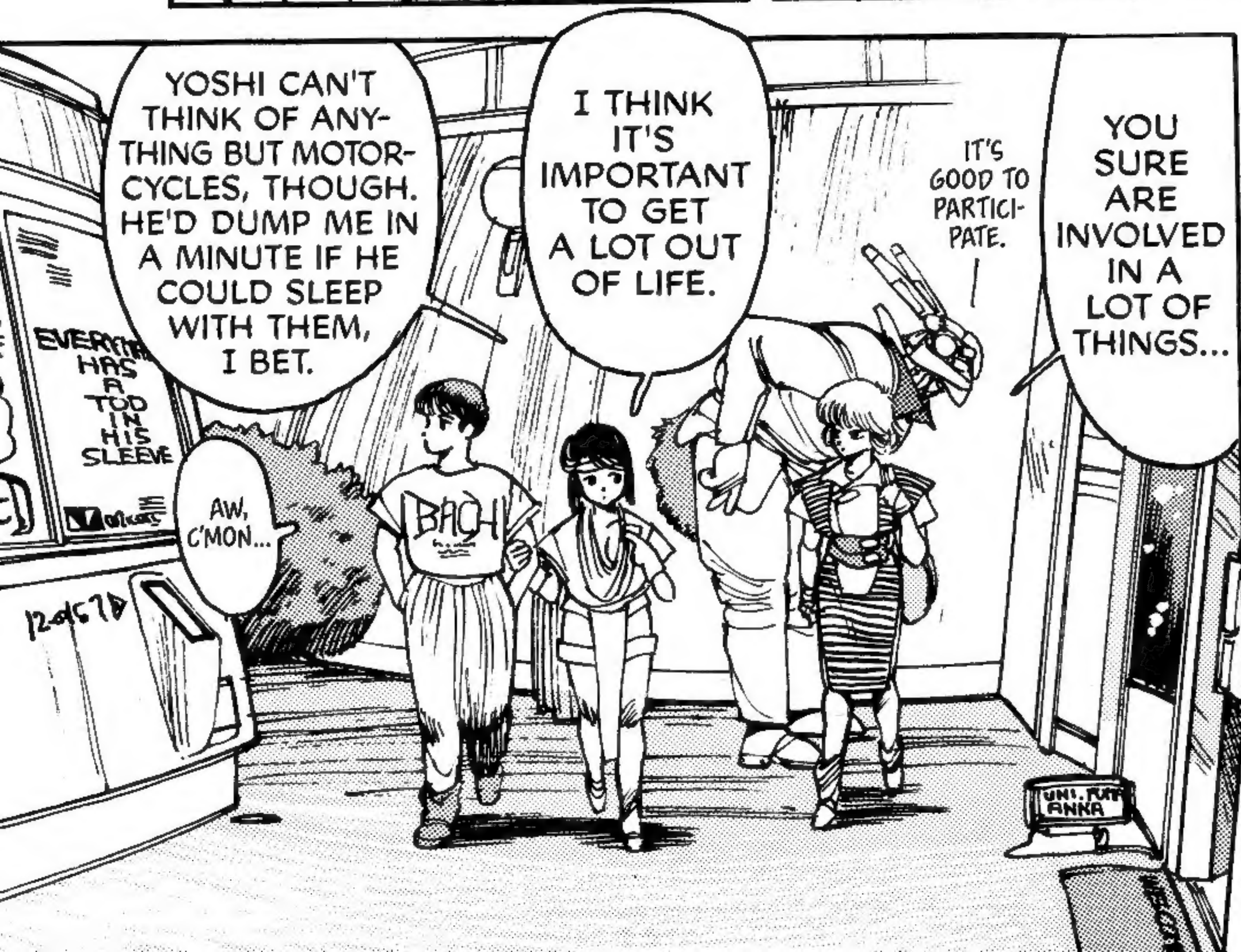
NO FAIR...

HEH, HEH, HEH...



ANOTHER DAY, YOUNG LADY!

HEY, WHAT'VE I TOLD YOU ABOUT BOTHERIN' MY CUSTOMERS, GRANNY?!



YOSHI CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT MOTORCYCLES, THOUGH. HE'D DUMP ME IN A MINUTE IF HE COULD SLEEP WITH THEM, I BET.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET A LOT OUT OF LIFE.

IT'S GOOD TO PARTICIPATE.

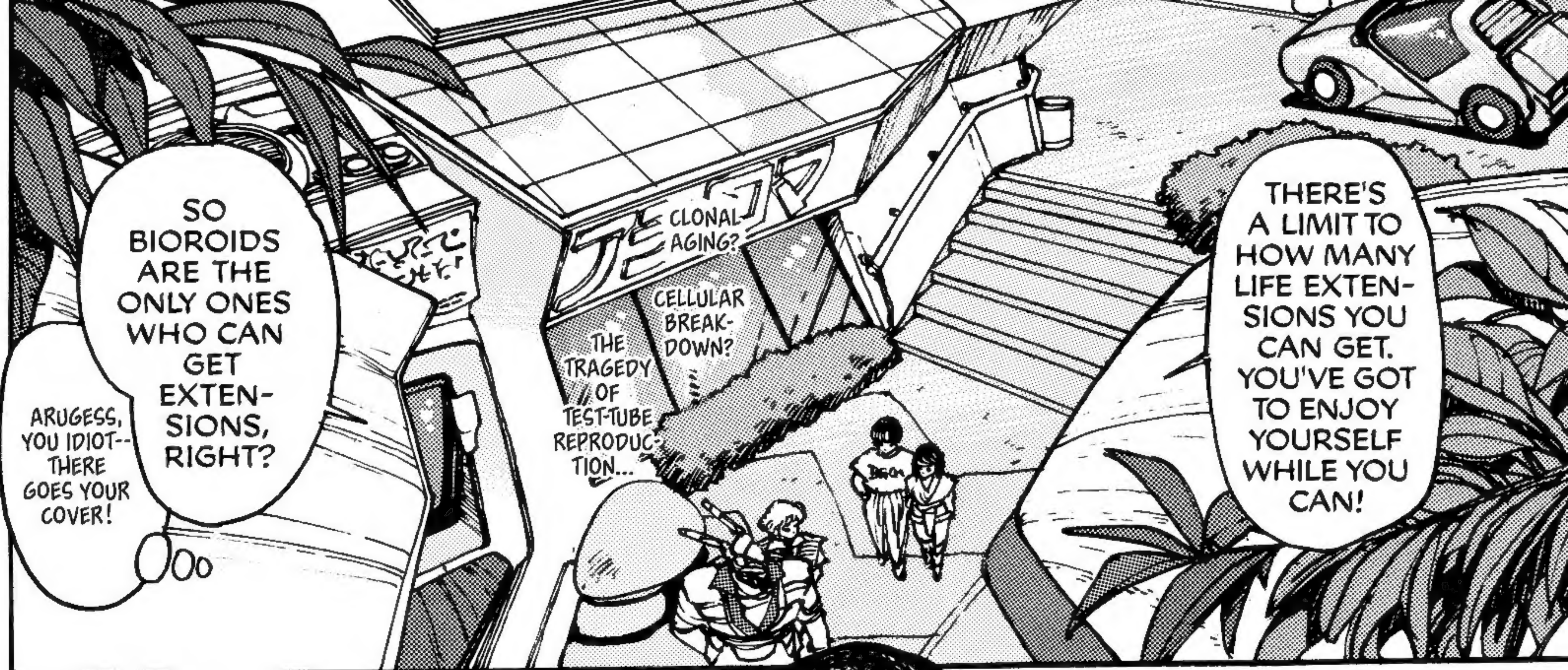
YOU SURE ARE INVOLVED IN A LOT OF THINGS...

HMPH! SEE IF I CARE... BUT YOU BETTER LET ME BORROW IT, OR I WON'T INTRODUCE YOU TO MY BEAUTY PARLOR, OR DANCE INSTRUCTOR, OR DIVING CLUB OR SILVER CRYSTAL TEAM, SO *THERE!*



HMM... CORRUPTED BY MATERIALISM.

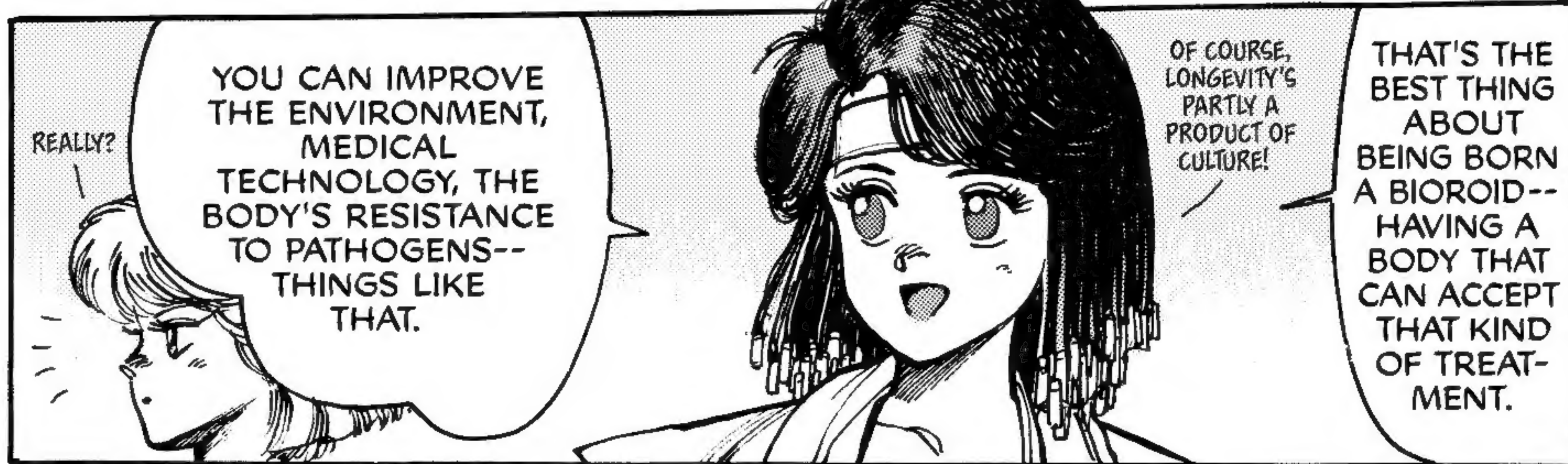




ARUGESS, YOU IDIOT-- THERE GOES YOUR COVER!

SO BIOROIDS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN GET EXTENSIONS, RIGHT?

THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY LIFE EXTENSIONS YOU CAN GET. YOU'VE GOT TO ENJOY YOURSELF WHILE YOU CAN!

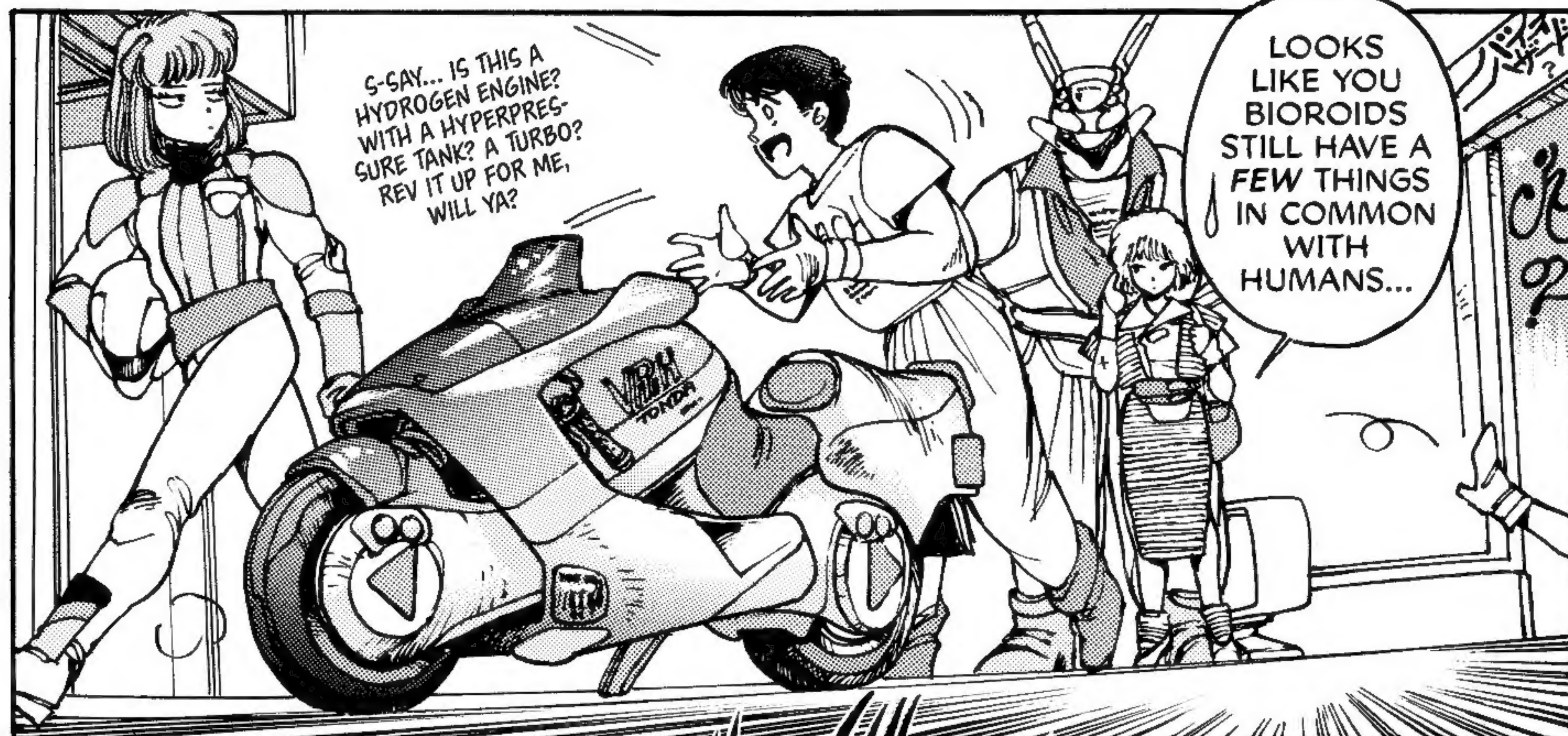


REALLY?

YOU CAN IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, THE BODY'S RESISTANCE TO PATHOGENS-- THINGS LIKE THAT.

OF COURSE, LONGEVITY'S PARTLY A PRODUCT OF CULTURE!

THAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING BORN A BIOROID-- HAVING A BODY THAT CAN ACCEPT THAT KIND OF TREATMENT.



S-GAY... IS THIS A HYDROGEN ENGINE? WITH A HYPERPRESSURE TANK? A TURBO? REV IT UP FOR ME, WILL YA?

LOOKS LIKE YOU BIOROIDS STILL HAVE A FEW THINGS IN COMMON WITH HUMANS...



KYAAAAA!

TIME FOR YOUR PAVLOVIAN TREATMENT, DARLING!







士 郎 正 宗 PROMETHEUS UNBOUND  
**APPLESEED**™

**You can't have a perfect society without perfect people, and the only perfect people are the ones you can manufacture. The governing body of Olympus, an urban utopia created from the ashes of World War III, is about to bring paradise crashing down around their ears as they seek to regulate the minds and bodies of the human race . . . or fully replace them with cyborg substitutes. Deunan and Briareos find themselves in the unlikely position of having to hold together this house of cards. Their strategy? Destroy the old foundation and pray everything stands while new underpinnings are forged!**

**From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes the manga masterpiece *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that deftly balances hardcore techno-science, wry political commentary, and explosive action, and inspired the wildly popular animated film.**

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*This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.*

